FRIDAY
May 26, 2023

BENGALURU
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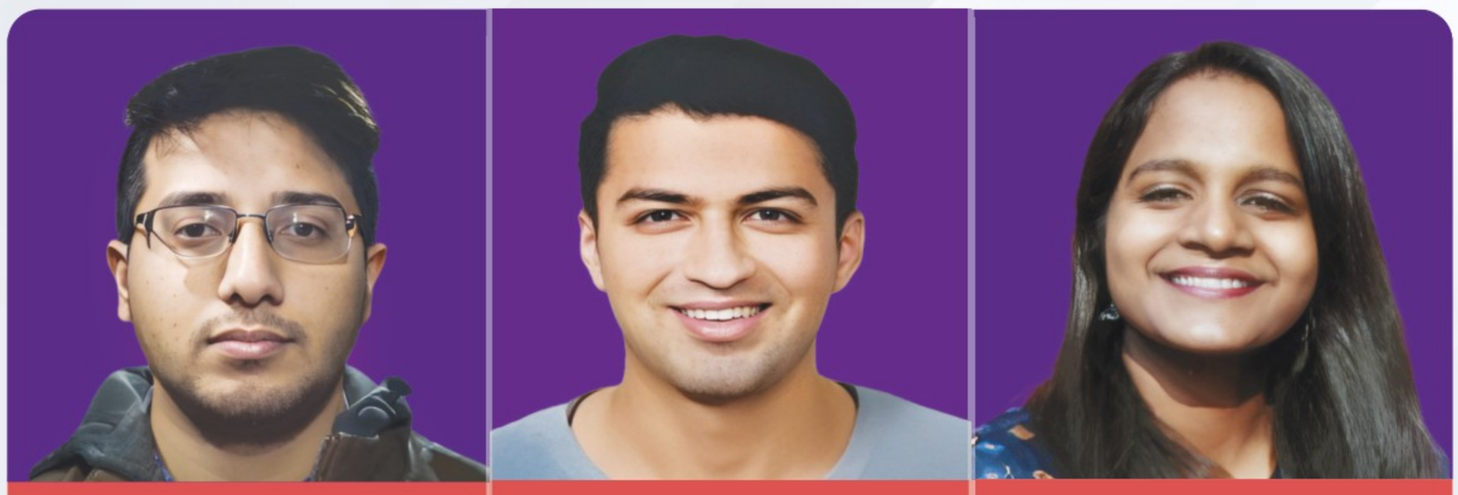

RANK 05
Mayur Hazarika

RANK 08
Aniruddh Yadav

RANK 09
Kanika Goyal

Our Top Performers

RANK 12
Abhinav Siwach

RANK 23
Vaishali

RANK 25
Sankhe Kashmira Kishor

RANK 27
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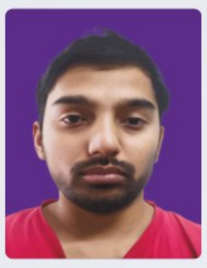

RANK 41
Shubham

RANK 42
Pranita Dash

RANK 44
Tushar Kumar

RANK 45
Narayani Bhatia

RANK 46
Manan Agarwal

RANK 49
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A minimum guaranteed pension is important

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EYEING A SPOT IN FINAL

Titans to clash with Mumbai Indians in Q2

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All-in-one policy plan to spread insurance in India

IRDA is devising an affordable product covering health, life, property, accident risks to give citizens protection, expedite claim settlements by linking death registries onto one industry platform

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

If India's insurance regulator's plans fructify, households across the country could soon be able to get an affordable single policy that covers health, life, property and accident, get their claims settled within hours, and even secure value-added services such as gym or yoga memberships at the time of buying a policy.

In an ambitious bid to expand the poor insurance penetration in the country, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is devising a new affordable bundled product to give citizens protection against multiple risks, and seeking to expedite claim settlements by linking death registries onto a common industry platform.

These initiatives are part of a broader overhaul – including legislative amendments to attract more investments through differentiated licences for niche players similar to the banking sector – with an eye on making insurance "available, affordable and accessible" to all citizens with a "gram panchayat- to district- to State-level' approach.

The regulator believes these changes could double the number of jobs in the sector to 1.2 crore.

IRDA chief Debasish Panda flagged "huge protection gaps" that exist "even today in almost all the lines of the insurance, be it life, health, motor, property or crops".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Cover drive for the uninsured

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority is driving multi-pronged changes to expand citizens' safety nets

- A new bundled insurance product Bima Vistar to provide life, health, accident and property cover through a single, simple policy
- A Bima Sugam platform as a one-stop shop for customers, integrating insurers and distributors
- Linking digital death registries to platform so claims can be settled within hours or a day
- Permitting insurers to sell value-added services with policies; for example, a yoga class bundled with a health scheme
- Women to lead campaign to spur insurance penetration in each Gram Sabha
- Roping in States to form insurance committees and expand coverage across districts

■ Move will also allow smaller, micro and regional insurers to reach different strata of society

Power purple

Seaside spectacle: Lightning cleaves the dark sky above Beach Road in Visakhapatnam as rain lashed the city on Thursday evening. K.R. DEEPAK

'China constructing model villages opposite the LAC'

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

China is continuing to expand the network of model villages, or Xiaokang (moderately prosperous) villages, opposite the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Middle and Eastern sectors, according to official sources. In addition, they say, new posts are coming up six or seven km from the LAC in the Middle Sector, and, in some areas, the frequency of patrolling has gone up significantly.

Opposite Barahoti, the Chinese are building villages at a rapid pace, sometimes 300 to 400 houses within 90 to 100 days, a source said.

CONTINUED ON
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NEARBY

Talks continue on Cabinet expansion

BENGALURU
Talks on the expansion of the Cabinet have continued as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar have been attempting to push the names of their loyalists. » Page 6

BBMP officials, pvt. firm booked

BENGALURU
The police have registered an FIR against three BBMP revenue officers for awarding a short-term contract to a one-month-old company to supply equipment for the Assembly elections in their constituency. » Page 2

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Breaching 90m is a target, not an obsession: Neeraj

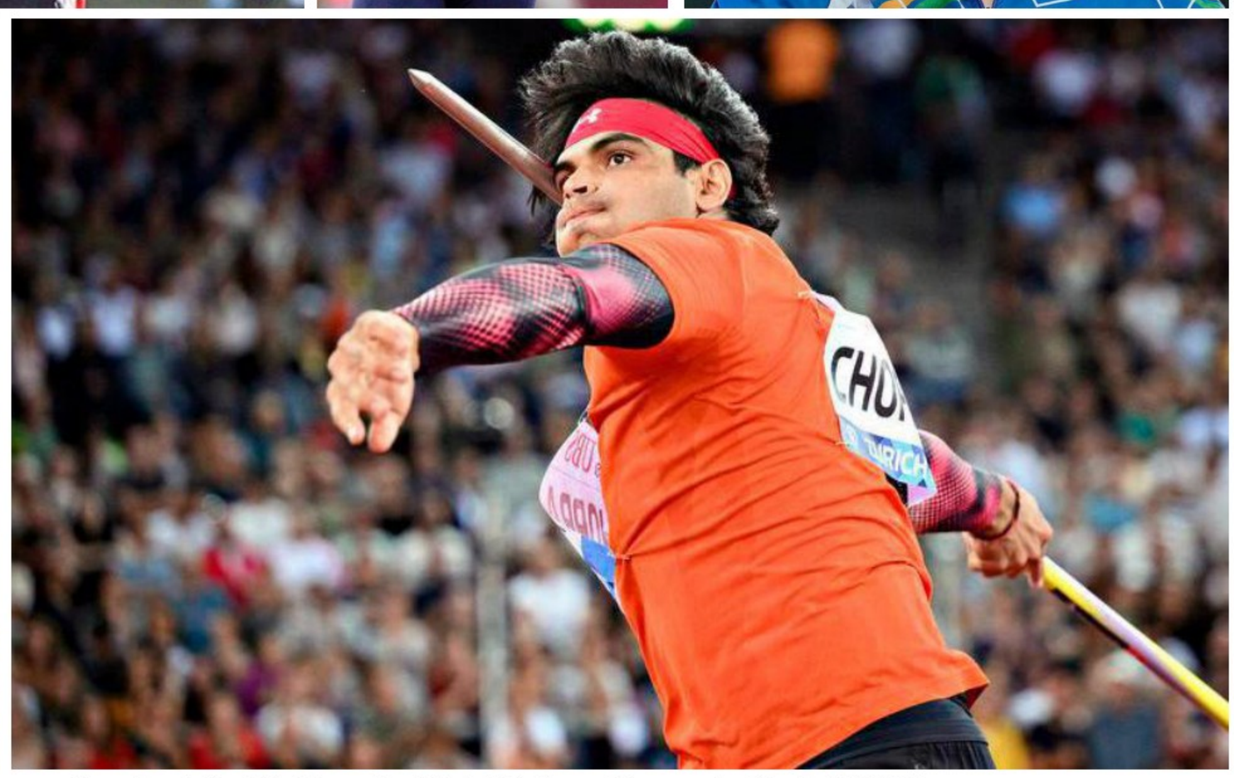
Over the last few years, the process of getting better has taken priority for the javelin *wunderkind* as has the maturity to not let results define him

ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan

When Neeraj Chopra was crowned as the World's *numero uno* javelin thrower on Monday, he was expectedly bombarded with congratulatory messages and praise befitting the achievement from all sections, national and international. It was yet another feather in the cap of the 25-year old who, with no disrespect to those who came before him, has single-handedly triggered a possible athletic revolution in India.

In fact, his achievements starting with the Tokyo Olympics may well be seen as a watershed moment in Indian sporting history, breaking the invisible glass ceiling for Indian track & field athletes in terms of international performance, confidence and belief. And yet, when he takes the field on June 3 at the FBK Games in The Netherlands, there will be the one small question that has followed him forever – will he cross the 90m mark?



Talking straight: Neeraj is happy that he has been consistent this season and has categorically said that the much-anticipated 90m throw will happen when it has to. FILE PHOTOS

Conversation-opener

It's something that Neeraj has now accepted as the default conversation-opener every time he talks – to the media, the officials, the fans and any Indian he meets during his competitive and training outings anywhere in the world. Make no mistake, they are everywhere. He has also learnt to take the burden of expectations for what it is – just expectations.

Soon after winning the Olympic gold, Neeraj had admitted the target was on his mind but more as a motivation to improve than anything else.

"The 90m mark is an important barrier. The best in the world have got it and it is important for me to personally consider myself a genuine world-level thrower," he had said but insisted that it was not something he thought of too often. "It is a target but not an obsession. It can be 89.99m or 90.1m also in competition at some point, it won't change the way I train," he had explained.

Fantastic success

To those in the know, however, Neeraj's anointment as destiny's child started five years before the rainy, windy night in Tokyo, when he set a new junior World record en route to winning gold at the 2016 World Junior Championships. Since then, through competitions ranging from the SAF Games all the way up, the 2022 World Championships is the only blip in his still-improving golden career – he could only manage a silver in Eugene.

What his successes have meant for a country that remembers Olympic sports only once in two years – during the Asian/Commonwealth Games and the Olympics – is an unreal urgency to overhaul achievements.

It manifests in different ways too – when Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem did it at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in the absence of an injured Neeraj, things quickly turned into an India vs Pakistan issue, specially on social media, adding a layer of urgency to the entire exercise.

Over the last few years, however, the process of getting better has taken priority as has the maturity to not let results define him. "It's never about breaking records or beating someone but doing your best to improve yourself. By that logic, Johannes Vetter has crossed 97m also. I don't ever go into a competition with the pressure of distance," he had said last year. For most people, the 90m mark is like the 'holy grail', making many wonder why he hasn't done it yet despite all his successes. And he has already done 89.94m, so six centimetres shouldn't be too difficult, right? For reference, that's just the length of an average adult little finger.

Wrong. The difference at the top in elite sports is often a matter of millimetres and micro-seconds. At the 2017 Worlds, Germany's Johannes Vetter edged ahead of Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic for gold by a mere 1.5 centimetres. Neeraj himself has gone from 86.48m in 2016 to 89.94m in 2022, an improvement of just over three metres in six years with the best of training and sackloads of hard work!

Consider this: Only 23 men have managed to go past 90m since the weight and design of the javelin was standardised by World Athletics in 1986. Of these, Vetter has done so an incredible eight times while Czech legend Jan Zelezny has managed it seven times. Among the Asians, only Nadeem and Chinese Taipei's Cheng Chao-tsun are in the elite club.

Zelezny's 98.48m remains the World record for an incredible 27 years and counting. And Vetter is in an exclusive class of one among the active athletes to go past 95m despite all the advancements in technology and training since the now 56-year old Zelezny hung up his boots.

Putting it in perspective

All this is simply to put the competition at the top in perspective. Earlier this year, Neeraj laughed off the inevitable yet again, bringing it up himself at the beginning of an interaction to pre-empt any questions.

"Let's say I hit it and don't win a medal – then there will be questions on that and the talk will be of hitting 93 or 94m. I am happy that I have been consistent this season. There are times when medals come with a shorter throw or slower timing but people don't realise it simply means the conditions were tough and you managed to adjust better than the rest. The 90m will happen when it has to," he had tried to put the matter to rest.

That won't happen, though. On June 3 in Hengelo, Neeraj will be up against Vetter for the first time since Tokyo Olympics, the German battling injuries and spending most of 2022 and 2023 in rehab, along with two other Germans, both with a personal best of over 90m - Julian Weber and Andreas Hofmann.

Regardless of the results, though, the 90m question will continue to live on in the collective Indian social conscious - till he breaches it.

Discipline and self-belief have helped Nishant punch his way to success

Y.B. Sarangi

Having drawn everyone's attention by thumping a Cuban boxer – a rarest of rare occurrence for an Indian boxer – to secure his maiden international medal, a World championship bronze in Tashkent, the 22-year-old Nishant Dev has grown in confidence. Now, he is determined to claim medal at the Asian Games and book a berth in the Paris Olympics.

Nishant's journey to the World championship podium at the Uzbekistan capital, where the Indian male boxers recorded their best-ever showing by claiming three bronzes, was different. Unlike several top-level boxers, who came through the ranks and landed medals in international age group events before shining in elite competitions, Nishant struck it big straightaway at the highest level.

Overcoming obstacles

The Karnal boy, who took to the sport in 2012 after being inspired by his boxer uncle, and made Karnataka his home to hone his skills at the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) at Vijayanagar after learning the basics under coach Surender Chauhan, had to overcome his share of obstacles before making his mark.

He lost in the quarterfinals on his National championships debut at Baddi in 2019, but impressed the then high-performance director Santiago Nieva and joined the National camp.

In 2021, he became the National champion on his 'home turf' at Vijayanagar and went on to make his international debut at the World championships in Belgrade. He impressed everyone there by defeating some established boxers – including Hungary's nine-time National champion Laszlo Kozak, two-time Olympian Merven Clair of Mauritius, and Mexico's Marco Alvarez Verde – before losing to eventual silver medallist Russian Vadim Musaev in a closely-fought quarterfinal bout.

Injury woes

In 2010, Nishant had dislocated his right shoulder after falling from the stairs and the injury came back to haunt him at the beginning of 2022 as his shoulder developed infection. He had surgery in March and went through rehab. He returned strongly to retain his National title at Hisar in January last.

"I lost several tournaments because of the injury. But I was confident that I can do it as my boxing skills and mindset are different. My family motivated me and kept me positive. When I did rehab at the IIS for six months, I worked on my shoulder. It improved my strength.

Hanging in: Nishant, who made headlines by besting a Cuban boxer en route to a bronze at the Worlds, feels his first target is to raise his endurance level. IBA

Cool and relaxed

"In 2021, my nose was broken and the World championship was my first international event. I was under pressure in the quarterfinals. But I did not feel any pressure this time around. There was not a single fight, whether it was quarterfinal or semifinal, where I felt pressure. I was very cool and relaxed."

Praise for coaches

Nishant, who went down fighting to Asian champion and eventual gold medallist Aslanbek Shymbergenov of Kazakhstan and claimed the bronze in 71kg, acknowledged the contribution of American coach Ronald Simms for his good showing.

"I spoke with Ron Sir before the quarterfinals. He advised me to be mentally strong and confident. I followed his advice and it paid off," said Nishant.

According to former National chief coach G.S. Sandhu and foreign coach B.I.Fernandez, Nishant's victory over the Cuban was a first by an Indian in a major competition.

"I told Nishant that the Cuban's skill set is not as high as yours and the Cuban is going to try to outhustle you and that's exactly what the Cuban attempted to do," said Simms.

At one point, Simms, who groomed Nishant during his days at the IIS, had noticed a 'bad change' as the boxer threw his left hand wide but the problem looked rectified during the Worlds.

"Nishant has stayed disciplined and remained on course as far as his technique (is concerned) and him recognising what's going on in the ring and adjusting. His footwork is beautiful," said Simms, adding that the young boxer would add power to his punches as "he's getting more of a man."

Apart from Simms, Nishant acknowledged the role of other coaches, such as high-performance director Bernard Dunne, foreign coach Dmitry Dmitruk, chief coach C.A. Kuttappa and current IIS head coach John Warburton.

"I take every coach's opinion and the special things to learn from each one of them. I have applied the points which suited my game. From Kuttappa Sir, I have learnt not to get bogged down against any boxer," says Nishant.

'Really good jab'

Kuttappa points out that "Nishant has got a really good jab. He has got good power too." Nishant also underscored the role of the psychologist Adrita Banerjee during the Worlds. "As I was cutting weight, I was having problems sleeping on an empty stomach. As a result, I was a little disturbed during the first two fights. The psychologist prescribed a technique, which helped me relax."

The podium finish in Tashkent may have satiated his hunger for an international medal, but Nishant and the coaches know that the promising boxer can achieve more.

With the Asian Games, an Olympic qualifying event, scheduled in September, Nishant feels his first target is to raise his endurance level. "I noticed that my endurance goes down towards the closing stages of a fight. Boxers who cut weight face such difficulties. I need to work on that," said Nishant.

Simms has high hopes for Nishant. "He believes in himself. It was a point in time when people really didn't believe in him and he, all of a sudden, came out of nowhere and made it happen and he has continued to do that.

The only way is up

"It's only up for Nishant from here. He wants to go to the Olympics and win the gold. Competing in this World championship is going to help him," said Simms, underlining that if Nishant followed his plan then he would be an internationally known professional champion by 2028.

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INBRIEF

BMTC introduces new route

Effective from Thursday, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transportation Corporation (BMTC) has introduced Route No. 501-NH from Nayandanahalli junction to Hebbal via Nagarbahavi Circle, Malagala, Sumanahalili junction, Gorguntepalya, BEL Circle, Devinagara Cross with ordinary schedule.

The first departure from Nayandanahalli junction will be at 5.35 a.m. and the last departure at 9.55 p.m. Similarly, the first departure from Hebbal is at 5.45 a.m. and the last departure is at 10.20 p.m.

Training programme for unemployed youth

The MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Ministry of MSME, Rajaninagar Industrial Estate, Bengaluru, proposes to conduct a four-week training programme for the benefit of unemployed youth in programming and operation of CNC Lathe and Machining Centre from June 5.

Engineering graduates/Diploma holders/ITI (Mechanical Trades) and technically experienced candidates are eligible to apply.

For details, call 080-23151540.

Disruption in power supply

There will be no power supply on Friday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the areas serviced from 220/66/11 KV Khoday Glass factory station to take up maintenance works. According to a press release from BESCOM, Jayanagar division, the areas that will be affected are: Konanakunte, Thalaghatapura, Doddakallasandra, Shreenidhi Layout and Avalahalli.

BBMP officials, private company booked over fraudulent poll contract

To participate in the webcasting tender, a company should have a minimum experience of webcasting in one general election and two Assembly elections; this firm had no eligibility

Imran Gowhar and Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Alleged fraud came to light when the same firm participated in another tender process through e-procurement and submitted the required documents

The Siddapura police have registered an FIR against three Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) revenue officers for awarding a short-term contract to a one-month-old company to supply equipment and required materials for the Assembly elections in their constituency.

The police have also booked the owner of the company, My Homes Events, identified as Chandra Kumar.

The alleged fraud came to light when the same firm participated in another tender process through e-procurement and submitted the required documents. The BBMP officials verified the records to find that the firm did not qualify and rejected it for non-submission of proper documents as per the technical criteria.

According to sources in the BBMP, this was first flagged by Amlan Aditya Biswas, Regional Commissioner (RC), Bengaluru Division, after he found the alleged irregularity in the tender process. Mr. Biswas had also probed the voter data theft scam and filed a report to the Election Commission. Sources said Mr. Biswas had also written to BBMP about the fraud executed by two companies, including My Homes Events.

Quotation secured

Explaining the alleged malpractice, sources said My Home Events secured a short-term quotation for webcasting after the tender process was finalised. Upon probing the background of the company, it was found that the address of the company which was mentioned in the quotation was false. The officials who were sent by Mr. Biswas to the address in Chamrajpet found no presence of any company in that location.

The sources further said the Electoral Roll Officer gave the quotation in violation of quotation guidelines. To participate in the webcasting tender, a company should have a minimum experience of webcasting in one general election and two assembly elections. This company was new and had no eligibility for participation.

A top BBMP official said after the same was brought to the notice and all quotations were cancelled and a probe was ordered.

Although the company has paid GST, it has not taken the required business licence from BBMP. Moreover, the address mentioned by the company is fake, the findings by the BBMP revealed. The revenue officials who have been accused in the case have allegedly colluded with Chandra Kumar to misuse the funds.

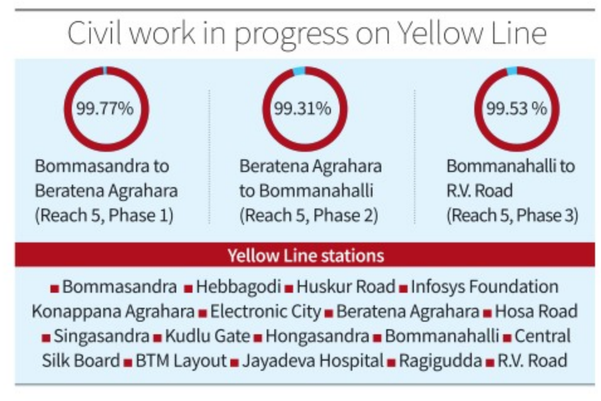
Further verification revealed that the firm was registered in February 2023, a month before it was awarded the short-term contract to supply required electronic equipment and material for the assembly elections in the south zone.

Contract awarded

Jagadish Naik, Joint Commissioner, South Zone, who conducted a probe, found that the three officials, identified as Nagabhushan N., ERO and revenue officer, Govindarajnagar Assembly constituency, Suresh, ERO and revenue officer Vijayanagar Assembly constituency and Nagaraj, ERO and revenue officer, Padmanabhanagar Assembly constituency, allegedly colluded with Chandra Kumar, owner of My Homes Events and awarded the contract under short-term quotations to provide equipment, such as electronic commissioning of EVMs, mustering, CCTV cameras, computers printers, scanners, photocopying machine, LEDs, TVs, software, web casting, internet, setting up check posts, security rooms, etc.

Based on the complaint, the police have registered an FIR against My Homes Events and its owner Chandra Kumar along with Nagabhushan, Suresh and Nagaraj, charging them with cheating, criminal breach of trust, disobeying the law and unlawful assembly. The police said notices will be issued to the accused.

Electronics City metro corridor may start operation by December 2023



Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The much-awaited R.V. Road to Bommasandra Metro line (19 km), which will connect Electronics City, is set to start operations in December 2023, according to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

The Yellow Line of the metro is expected to cater to lakhs of commuters and decrease traffic on the stretch as it connects south Bengaluru to the southeastern parts of the city.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, BMRCL MD Anjum Parwez said, "The 19 km Rashtriya Vidyalaya (RV) Road-Bommasandra Line of Namma Metro will be opened by December this year for commercial operation in one go. This will benefit lakhs of commuters, especially people who are working in IT/BT companies on the stretch."

He said metro ridership would cross 10 lakh per day once both the lines become operational. The BMRCL has completed around 99% of the civil work on the stretch.

To open in one go

Earlier, the BMRCL had planned to open the stretch in two phases: first between Central Silk Board and Bommasandra and another phase between R.V. Road and Central Silk Board. "The earlier plan has been shelved and we will open the whole stretch in one go so that the ridership will increase," Mr. Parwez added.

In this stretch, for the first time, the BMRCL is building a road-cum-rail flyover from Ragigudda to Central Silk Board. The stretch is fully elevated with 16 stations, while the R.V. Road station is the terminal station on the city side, where an interchange is being provided on the Green Line. Jayadeva Hospital station will serve as another interchange station with the Pink Line, while Silkboard station will be the other interchange station between Yellow Line and Blue Line in the future.

Tech corridor

The Yellow Line will benefit many of the techies working in the Bommasandra industrial area, HSR Layout, Electronics City, and Beratena Agrahara (Hosa Road).

Manoj Sekhar, a techie working in Electronics City, who travels to his office from BTM Layout, said, "The Yellow Line will benefit the techies working in Electronics City and other areas on the stretch. I have been travelling to the office for more than one hour, to and from every day in my office cab. If the metro will open in December, this will make our life easier."

Prasanth Nayak, a resident of Bommanahalli, was sceptical of the metro keeping with the deadline.

"If BMRCL opens the stretch at the end of this year, it is good. However, in Jayadeva Hospital station, work doesn't seem to be happening at a speed that is expected to meet the deadline of December month. It is already creating a traffic bottleneck. BMRCL has to speed up the work. The Yellow Line is much awaited in Bengaluru since most people working in Electronics City can commute easily to the metro from any part of the city. This will also likely reduce office cabs and personal vehicles used on this stretch," Mr. Nayak added.

Welfare trust booked for damaging BWSSB pipe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the Karnataka Spiritual Welfare Trust situated on Kanakapura main road have been booked for allegedly damaging the water supply pipes of the Bangalore Water Supply Board (BWSSB) while digging a borewell.

Based on the complaint of Vinaya, Assistant Executive Engineer, BWSSB, south, Anjanapura block, the Talaghattapura police charged the trust and its members under various sections on prevention of damage to public properties, on Wednesday.

Vinaya in her complaint said the accused were digging a borewell at the trust without permission from BWSSB. As a result, the machines damaged a 1200 MM diameter pipe disrupting water supply to the nearby areas.

Water wasted

Around lakhs of litres of clean drinking water were wasted, and the BWSSB has incurred a loss to the tune of several lakhs to repair the damaged pipes.

The police have summoned the accused for questioning, and based on their statement, necessary action will be taken, said officials.

Revenue Dept. to roll out Kaveri 2.0

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Revenue Department will roll out the much-awaited Kaveri 2.0, a web-based property registration application, in all 43 sub-registrar offices in Bengaluru between May 29 and June 26.

Out of 256 offices, the State government so far has launched the app in 165 offices in 24 districts

In September 2003, the State government rolled out Kaveri 1.0, which had a few constraints and would break down frequently during registration.

While Kaveri 1.0 was developed by Pune-based C-DAC, Kaveri 2.0 was developed by the Centre for Smart Governance and e-Governance Department.

- In September 2003, the State government rolled out Kaveri 1.0, which had a few constraints and would break down frequently during registration
- The web-based property registration application will be rolled out in all 43 sub-registrar offices in Bengaluru between May 29 and June 26
- The newly developed app makes the registration process user-friendly by dividing the process into three stages

The press note shared by the Revenue Department stated that the older version had technical snags, and the Visual Basic (VB) language and Windows XP operating system support expired in 2007 and 2012, respectively.

The operating system was also not supported by antivirus. Kaveri 1.0 had several operational issues and due to the absence of support from C-DAC, the revenue department couldn't manage issues at the filed level.

The newly developed app makes the registration process user-friendly by dividing the process into three stages: pre-registration, registration, and post-registration. The pre-registration is online and contactless. The citizens have to enter the data required for registration and send it online for verification by the sub-registrar.

Then the verified documents will be sent to the user, after which online payment can be made. Later, the citizens can schedule a date and time for the registration process.

The registration will be completed in 10 minutes as citizens are only required to provide a thumb impression and capture photo.

After the registration, a digitally signed document will be sent to Digilocker account.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 26	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:41
RISE 11:22	SET 00:00
SATURDAY, MAY. 27	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:41
RISE 12:10	SET 00:19
SUNDAY, MAY. 28	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:41
RISE 12:56	SET 00:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	27
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	32	20

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C A mostly dry weather to prevail.Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Malayalam film *2018*'s second-best performance in city after Kerala

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

An area in Kuttanad in Alappuzha district of Kerala during the August 2018 floods. The film *2018* is based on the natural disaster that left around 500 people dead across 14 districts of the State. AP

"Things were very bad," says Archana Rithin, a Bengaluru resident, remembering the 2018 floods that killed around 500 people across 14 districts in Kerala. *2018*, a Malayalam film on the State's worst-ever disaster is winning hearts across the globe.

The well-crafted film has achieved the feat of being the third Malayalam film ever to enter the 100-crore club. It's breathing on the neck of the industry's top two grossing films, *Lucifer* (175 crore) and *Pulimurugan* (152 crore).

Second home

In India, after its home turf (Kerala), the film has performed the best in Bengaluru, considered the second home for Keralites. *2018* is the most successful Malayalam film ever in Karnataka, with Bengaluru contributing the maximum to the film's ₹5 crore collection at the state's box office. Around 15 lakh Malayalees reside in the city. During the floods, it was a nightmarish period for many in Bengaluru. They prayed for the safety of their loved ones, who were fighting for survival back home in Kerala.

Ms. Rithin reveals how her family was concerned about her father-in-law. "My husband's father was alone in Pathanamthitta when the floods began. We were busy in Bengaluru running a start-up. Initially, we weren't able to gauge the intensity of the situation. We panicked after we learnt about the worsening developments in Kerala. We couldn't reach out to his father due to network issues. We requested one of his neighbours to help him," she says.

After a quiet start in Bengaluru, with just 22 shows in the first week, *2018* grew big on word-of-mouth publicity to get a whopping 160 shows in the city in the second week.

'Real Kerala Story'

The relatability factor and the message of unity make *2018* the 'real Kerala story', says Reji Kumar, an IT professional and general secretary of Bengaluru's Kerala Samajam, which has 5000 Malayali families part of it.

"People in Kerala had this reputation of being selfish about their property. But the floods broke the caste and religion barriers and made people come together to face a calamity. The film shows the real Kerala unlike the other film," says Mr. Kumar, indicating his displeasure at the controversial Bollywood film *The Kerala Story*, which shows women in Kerala coerced into converting to Islam and then recruited by the terrorist organisation ISIS.

Mr. Kumar was at the forefront of Kerala Samajam's help to the flood victims. "Around 30 volunteers worked 24 hours during that time. We sent 28 truckloads in 15 trucks to Kerala from Bengaluru. We sent materials based on the requirement of each of the eight districts we covered, including worst-hit places like Wayanad and Alappuzha. My father, an ex-serviceman, was alone in a double-story building with my mother when water started flowing inside the house in Chengannur in Alappuzha. Somehow, we contacted the CM's office, through which we sent a boat to my parent's house to ensure they are safe," he says.

Earlier movies

Malayalam cinema's tryst with Bengaluru has been strong since the industry witnessed a new-generation wave. *Bangalore Days*, *Drishyam*, and *Premam* have had glorious runs in the city. Films like *2018* remind people of an extraordinary survival story, feels Lawrence Fernandes, who headed a voluntary group that sent flood relief materials to Kerala.

"We wanted help in an organised way. So, we made posters about our initiative and posted them on our respective Instagram pages. What started as a small initiative grew big as many associations in Bengaluru donated materials through our group. We raised around ₹ 5 lakh relief fund," says Lawrence, an HR manager. During his seven-day volunteering stint at Panamaram in Wayanad, he remembers the ravaged region resembling a war-hit area, exactly how it's reflected in the film, which shows the plight of the several refugee camps.

2018, which has crossed over 2000 shows in Karnataka so far, is set to be a pan-Indian film. It will release in Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil on May 26.

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Why Indians feel lonely in a crowded country

The cultural nuances of people who are physically surrounded by others, but may not always feel supported in their relationships, jobs, and daily interactions

Preeti Zachariah

Manasvi Khandelwal talks about the loneliness that has stayed with her for a few months now, ever since she moved to Atlanta, the United States, after her wedding. "My husband and I are in a very happy relationship," she says. "But there is some sense of grief because we are so far away from family and friends," says Ms. Khandelwal.

A few weeks ago, the U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, in an 81-page report, called loneliness an epidemic. "Widespread loneliness in the U.S. poses health risks as deadly as smoking up to 15 cigarettes daily, costing the health industry billions of dollars annually," it said. In an Associated Press interview, he compared loneliness to hunger or thirst "a feeling the body sends us when something we need for survival is missing." "Millions of people in America are struggling in the shadows, and that's not right."

Loneliness isn't just an American phenomenon. In India, which calls itself a collectivist society, promoting interdependence and cooperation, with 1.4 billion people and a population density of 470 per sq km (America has a density of 36 people; the world 60 as per 2020 World Bank data), it doesn't seem likely that people could be lonely. Yet, they are.

In a study 'What causes loneliness among household heads: a study based in primary setting in Mumbai, India', published last year in *BMC Public Health*, 7% of respondents often felt lonely, while 21% had sometimes felt lonely in the week preceding the study. Another study, 'A review of loneliness in Indian youth', published in 2020 in *The International Journal of Indian Psychology,* says that while reliable statistics on loneliness in an Indian context do not exist, there is enough anecdotal evidence to suggest that it is dangerously at our doorstep.

"We are not short of people (in India), but we are often short of the understanding that community and connection are what keeps you healthy and happy," believes Bengaluru-based psychiatrist Dr. Roshan Jain, a de-addiction specialist working at Apollo Hospitals. "Loneliness has significantly gone up among Indians, and it is going to become a bigger problem."

Lonely in a crowd: Commuters wait for a train at the Dadar station, at the end of a long day. EMMANUAL YOGINI

India, like the world

There are multiple facets to loneliness, points out Dr Alok Kulkarni, senior consultant psychiatrist at Manas Institute of Mental Health, Hubli, adding that these range from feeling empty and abandoned to the lack of perceived intimacy. "The emotional aspects of loneliness include sadness, melancholy, frustration, shame or desperation," he says. "This may be accompanied by self-doubt, low self-esteem, and social anxiety."

The loneliness of an ageing population has been studied in the west and acknowledged in India. With the dissolution of the joint family structure that leaves the elderly isolated, the death of loved ones, children leaving home, retirement, and battling multiple health conditions, big life changes – some that come together – can bring on loneliness.

But it's also hitting India's considerable youth (15 to 29 years) population of 27.2% (figures recently released by the government's National Statistical Office). Like seniors, it's major life changes because of which many younger adults report loneliness as the most painful part of their lives, says Preeti Singh, senior consultant, clinical psychology and psychotherapy, and the chief medical officer at Lissun, a Gurugram-headquartered mental health startup. "We are more global than ever, which makes us travel more physically across the world, towns, the cities," says Singh, pointing out that people who move away from their roots, often struggle to adapt and fit in these newer, different cultures.

> Stressful life events like bereavement, break-ups, and immigration are associated with loneliness
>
> **DR. ALOK KULKARNI**
> senior consultant psychiatrist at Manas Institute of Mental Health, Hubli

Loss and loneliness

"Stressful life events like bereavement, break-ups, and immigration are associated with loneliness," says Dr. Kulkarni. He adds that low social connectedness, inadequate support network, low sense of belonging and psychological vulnerability are other important factors.

Aparnaa Nagesh, 40, an independent art professional in Bengaluru still remembers the crippling loneliness she felt when lost her mother in June 2021 to COVID. "It felt like something out of a space odyssey movie, where I was just floating around. I was just so lost for almost a year," remembers Ms Nagesh.

While Dr. Kulkarni does suggest some common-sensical preliminary measures such as reaching out to family and friends, joining local groups of classes, volunteering, spending time outdoors and exercising, he is clear about reaching out to a mental health professional. Ms Nagesh, who has struggled with depression, has worked with two therapists, and says she has benfited. "I think especially if you live alone and have trauma and grief in your baggage it is important to get therapy," she says.

Loss doesn't necessarily mean a demise in the family; it could also be a significant life change. According to Dr. Jain, many older people, for instance, experience intense loneliness after they retire, or their children move away.

Then there are long-term problems of which loneliness can form one part. "The LGBT community is increasingly feeling isolated and lonely due to lower social ties and lower levels of social integration," says Dr. Kulkarni, adding that people who have experienced physical and or sexual abuse are likely to feel lonely, as are those who are already dealing with mental health problems such as substance misuse, depression, and dementia.

The nature of work

With the opening up of the job market to include freelance and gig work, people turn to the internet for connection and community. Mumbai-based artist Indu Harikumar, 43, was an early adapter to the internet, turning to it for both social connections and work. "I wouldn't have thought of having some of the conversations offline, that I would have in an online space," she says, adding that, "At some point, I forgot that I needed the physical connection."

The omnipresence of the internet, which often creates a reality more potent than the natural world, means that people turn to it for many things: to forge communities, work smarter, find love, acquire new objects, entertain, or connect with loved ones many continents away. And yet, as multiple studies have proved, there is a strong correlation between high internet use and loneliness.

Over time, loneliness can end up impacting both mental and physical health. "Loneliness is associated with many psychiatric disorders, such as depression, sleep disorders, personality disorders, and Alzheimer's disease," says Dr. Kulkarni, adding that chronic loneliness can also turn on genes that cause inflammation. It is also associated with diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, coronary heart disease, hypertension, obesity, and cancer. In short, it portends poorer health outcomes, he adds.

He firmly believes that loneliness needs to be tackled at a social and policy level. "In the elderly steps could include social skills training, fostering community support groups, creating age-friendly communities, and framing policies that address marginalisation and discrimination," he says. He also believes that it is important to promote inclusive behaviour, promote school mental health, and design mental health training modules for teachers as part of psychological first aid.

THE GIST

Why loneliness is a cause for concern

Earlier this month, the US. surgeon general, Dr Vivek Murthy spoke about loneliness being a major health problem in America. However, loneliness isn't an American phenomenon. It is today a worldwide one, impacting a large number of Indians too, as studies and mental health experts point out.

So why is there so much loneliness in a densely populated country, especially one that has traditionally been a collectivist society? Experts believe that the community and connection of yore in India are being eroded, with loneliness having a disproportionate impact on the very young and the elderly.

Changing family structures, migration, the omnipotence of the internet, virtual rather than physical workspaces, retirement, children leaving home and bereavement are some of the key factors behind loneliness in Indians. All these are issues that need to be addressed and fast since the impact of loneliness on mental and physical health is considerable.

BIG SHOT

In the International Year of Millets, farmers from 26 villages exhibit varieties of millets in Pastapur village, Telangana. These grains play a role in boosting food and nutrition security. As a crop, they need little water and are highly heat tolerant; as a food, they are nutrient-rich and their diversity gives diets a plethora of micro-nutrients. MOHD. ARIF

QUESTION CORNER

How do the new U.S. draft recommendations for breast cancer screening impact India?

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force posted a draft recommendation statement on screening for breast cancer, that all women get screened every other year starting at age 40. Now, women between 50 and 74 years are advised a biennial mammography.

"In India, for a decade now we have been following the Indian Radiology and Imaging Association guidelines to start screening women for breast cancer at 40 years, with a mammogram every alternate year," says gynaecologist Dr. Meenakshi Ahuja, senior director, Fortis La Femme, and president, Indian Menopause Society, Delhi Chapter. So in effect the new guidelines don't affect India, though here, compliance is a problem, with women only going in to get a mammogram when they feel something is wrong.

Indian women are affected by breast cancer much earlier than their western counterparts: the median age of presentation is 49 years, as against 62 in the west, as per research published in the *Indian Journal of Surgical Oncology*.

"About 10 years ago, out of 100 breast cancer patients, there would be five or six women below 40 years; now I get 20 to 25 women in their 30s," says Dr. K.S. Kirushna Kumar, Radiation Oncologist and Head of Oncology services, Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai.

A report in the *World Journal of Clinical Oncology* in 2022 says breast cancer is now the most common cancer.

—Soma Basu

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The estimated wheat production of India in the 2022-23 crop year

112.74 million tonnes. The overall foodgrain output is likely to be a record 330.53 million tonnes in the July-June period of 2022-23, as per the Agriculture Ministry. PTI

The highest-ever turnover of the ITDC in 2022-23

458.08 in ₹ crore. ITDC's profit before tax for the financial year of 2023 jumped 983% year-on-year to ₹86.12 crore. PTI

The land Himachel aims to bring under natural farming

30,000 acres. Right now, 1.59 lakh farmers are practising natural farming on 50,000 acres of land, the agriculture department informed. PTI

UN observes the diamond jubilee of UN peacekeeping

75 years. The UN has sent more than two million peacekeepers to help countries move away from conflict, with successes in Liberia and Cambodia. A ceremony will honour 4,200 peacekeepers who died since 1948. AP

The number of people living in 'modern slavery', says report

50 million. The 20 richest countries are fuelling forced labour and account for over half the people living in 'modern slavery', as per the Walk Free Foundation. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Why do judges recuse themselves?

What is meant by a recusal? Do mass recusals call into question judicial transparency? What rules has the Supreme Court formulated in the past on recusals? How do other countries deal with recusals and judicial bias?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

ISTOCKPHOTO

The story so far:

Last week former Supreme Court judge Justice M.R. Shah refused to recuse himself from hearing a plea by former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt to submit additional evidence to back his Gujarat High Court appeal against his conviction in a 1990 custodial death case. Mr. Bhatt contended that there was a reasonable apprehension of bias as Justice Shah, as a High Court judge, passed strictures against him while hearing his plea linked to the same FIR. However, Justice Shah dismissed the plea as an attempt to indulge in 'bench hunting'. Similarly, a few weeks ago, the Chief Justice of India D.Y Chandrachud rejected an application seeking his recusal from hearing petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriages.

Why do judges recuse?

Whenever there is a potential conflict of interest, a judge can withdraw from a case to prevent the perception that the judge was biased while deciding a case. This conflict of interest can arise in many ways – from holding shares in a litigant company to having a prior or personal association with a party. Another common reason is when an appeal is filed in the Supreme Court against a High Court judgment delivered by the concerned judge before his elevation. The practice stems from the cardinal principle of due process of law – *nemo judex in sua causa,* that is, no person shall be a judge in his own case. Another principle guiding judicial recusals is 'justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done' propounded in 1924 in *Rex v. Sussex Justices* by the then Lord Chief Justice of England.

By taking the oath of office, judges promise to perform their duties, 'without fear or favour, affection or ill-will', in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Constitution. Furthermore, the Restatement of the Values of Judicial Life adopted by the Supreme Court forbids a judge from deciding a case involving any entity where he holds pecuniary interest unless the concerned parties clarify that they have no objections.

What is the procedure for recusal?

There are two kinds of recusals – an automatic recusal where a judge himself withdraws from the case, or when a party raises a plea for recusal highlighting the possibility of bias or personal interest of the judge in the case.

The decision to recuse rests solely on the conscience and discretion of the judge and no party can compel a judge to withdraw from a case. While judges have recused themselves even if they do not see a conflict but only because such apprehension was cast, there are also several instances where judges have refused to withdraw from a case. In 2019, while hearing a plea on the plight of inmates in Assam's detention centres, the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi was asked to recuse himself for some adverse oral remarks. Mr. Gogoi refused, saying that the plea had 'enormous potential to damage the institution'. If a judge recuses himself, the case is listed before the Chief Justice for allotment to an alternate Bench. India has no codified rules governing recusals, although several Supreme Court judgments have dealt with the issue.

Do judges have to record a reason for recusal?

Since there are no statutory rules governing the process, it is often left to the judges themselves to record reasons for recusals. Some judges specify oral reasons in open court while others issue a written order recording the reasons. In other cases, the reasons are speculative.

More often than not, the reasons behind a recusal are not disclosed leading to a diatribe against judicial transparency especially when mass recusals occur in sensitive cases. For instance, last year, five judges of the Bombay High Court recused themselves from the Bhima Koregaon case. Similarly, the recusal of Supreme Court judge Justice Bela M. Trivedi earlier this year from hearing Bilkis Bano's plea led to widespread speculation since no reasons were specified. The recusal was largely attributed to Justice Trivedi's deputation as Law Secretary to the Gujarat government from 2004 to 2006.

In the 2015 Supreme Court judgment striking down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), a claim for Justice J.S. Khehar's recusal was made on the ground that he was a member of the Collegium. In his concurring opinion, Justice Kurien Joseph wrote that it was the judge's 'constitutional duty' to be 'transparent and accountable' and therefore, reasons must be indicated for recusal. This will negate any room for attributing any motive for the recusal, he said. On the contrary, Justice Madan Lokur was of the opinion that citing reasons for recusal is unwarranted, expressing apprehension about a scenario where a party may challenge the reasoning before a court and it would set aside the recusal, ruling that the reason was frivolous. He, however, highlighted the need for 'procedural and substantive rules' to deal with the growing frequency of recusal pleas.

The Delhi High Court recently ruled that no litigant or third party has any right to intervene, comment or enquire regarding a judge's recusal from a case.

What rules has Supreme Court formulated in the past?

The Supreme Court has over time outlined various factors to be taken into consideration for deciding the impartiality of a judge. In *Ranjit Thakur versus Union of India* (1987), the SC held that to determine if a judge should recuse, what is relevant is the reasonableness of the apprehension of bias in the mind of the concerned party. "The proper approach for the Judge is not to look at his own mind and ask himself, however honestly, "Am I biased?" but to look at the mind of the party before him," the Court ruled.

The SC in *State of West Bengal versus Shivananda Pathak* (1998), defined judicial bias as a "preconceived opinion or a predisposition or predetermination to decide a case or an issue in a particular manner, so much so that such predisposition does not leave the mind open to conviction". Thus, it is a condition of mind which renders the judge incapable of impartiality in a particular case, the Court explained.

Formulating a more definite rule in the *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association versus the Union of India* (2015), the Court observed that where a judge has a pecuniary interest, no further inquiry is needed as to whether there was a 'real danger' or 'reasonable suspicion' of bias. However, other cases require such an inquiry, with the relevant test being the 'real danger' test– whether there is a 'real danger' of bias, to ensure that the court is thinking in terms of possibility rather than the probability of bias.

In a controversial recusal ruling, Justice Arun Mishra in *the Indore Development Authority versus Manoharlal and Ors* (2019), held that a judge who had rendered any decision in a smaller combination is not disqualified from being part of a larger Bench to which a reference is made. Noting that merely having a legal opinion does not disentitle one from being impartial, Justice Mishra said, "We have to deal with the cases every day in which similar or somewhat different questions are involved concerning the same provision. For having taken a view once, if recusal is to be made, it would be very difficult to get a Judge to hear and decide a question of law...."

What do some of the recent recusal orders say?

In February, Additional Sessions Judge Arul Varma recused himself citing 'personal reasons' less than a week after discharging Jawaharlal Nehru University student Sharjeel Imam and 10 others in the 2019 Jamia Millia Islamia violence case. The judge called the student activists arraigned in the case "scapegoats" and added that the police had "trampled the rights of the accused". On March 28, the Delhi High Court set aside Varma's order.

Delhi High Court judge Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani in March recused himself from hearing accused Asif Iqbal Tanha's plea against the 'leak' of his alleged confession statement by the Delhi Police to the media in a 2020 Northeast Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" probe. He observed that "no act on the part of a court must in any manner have a deleterious impact on the credibility of the justice system".

During an earlier hearing, Justice Bhambhani indicated he may have to recuse himself after News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) moved an intervention application saying he had a "past association" with them. He remarked during proceedings that a judge's "comfort level" is also a consideration when it comes to recusals, adding, "I never get into a matter where I myself am not comfortable with my independence".

What about foreign jurisdictions?

Contrasted with India, the U.S. has a well-defined law on recusals – Title 28 of the U.S. Code details the grounds for 'disqualification of justice, judge, or magistrate judge'. Such rules are also codified in the American Bar Association's Model Code of Judicial Conduct. This specifies three grounds for recusal – financial or corporate interest, a case in which the judge was a material witness or a lawyer, and a relationship to a party. However, on several occasions, judges recuse on their own – known as *sua sponte* recusals.

The U.K.'s law on judicial recusals evolved through judicial pronouncements. In the landmark case of *R versus Gough,* the 'real danger' test was adopted as the applicable standard based on of which recusal orders need to be passed. The test entailed disqualification solely on substantive and tangible evidence which conclusively highlights the presence of judicial bias and prejudice. However, the 'real danger' test was subjected to substantial criticism especially since the European Convention of Human Rights requires only the 'appearance of bias' to ensure that an onerous burden is not placed on any litigant to prove actual bias. Accordingly, a new test was formulated in *Lawal v. Northern Spirit Ltd,* where the standard laid down was to look at the likelihood of bias from the perspective of a fair-minded and reasonable observer.

THE GIST

- Whenever there is a potential conflict of interest, a judge can withdraw from a case to prevent the perception that the judge was biased while deciding a case. There are two kinds of recusals — an automatic recusal where a judge himself withdraws from the case, or when a party raises a plea for recusal highlighting the possibility of bias or personal interest of the judge in the case.
- The decision to recuse rests solely on the conscience and discretion of the judge and no party can compel a judge to withdraw from a case. Since there are no statutory rules governing the process, it is often left to the judges themselves to record reasons for recusals.
- The Delhi High Court recently ruled that no litigant or third party has any right to intervene, comment or enquire regarding a judge's recusal from a case.

From ₹3,000 for nursery students to ₹21,000 for high schoolers, prices of books at private schools rile parents

While charges for textbooks are pre-fixed by the govt., schools distribute workbooks and even stationery kits at high rates

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

How much does it cost for a student for one academic year in a private school in the city? Currently, parents are paying anything between ₹3,000 and ₹21,000 for books and stationery kits alone, leading to outrage.

Even parents of students in kindergarten classes are being asked to pay ₹1,000-5,000 for books. At nursery schools, where there is not much scope for notebooks, parents said that the institutions had come up with their own syllabus, which would require the students to have multiple printed books.

Mamatha R., the parent of an LKG student, said, "The school has decided to distribute rhyme books, alphabet books, number books, colour pencil colouring books, crayon colouring books, a book for animals, colours, words, etc. with their branding all over them. We can buy these books outside, but the school wants to maintain uniformity among students, which has left us with no choice but to purchase the books from them for ₹1,500."

A book stall at Avenue Road, Bengaluru, where school and college textbooks are sold. FILE PHOTO

Another parent, Viju, said that a school in R.R. Nagar was charging ₹3,672 for his pre-KG child's books.

While the charges for textbooks are pre-fixed by the government, schools distribute notebooks, workbooks, and even stationery kits, which contain pens, pencils, colouring sets and much more to the students. The charges for these kits vary from class to class and school to school. According to numerous parents who spoke to *The Hindu*, for students in grades 5-10, the average book fees range from ₹7,000 to ₹21,000.

Cheaper elsewhere

What irks parents is that the same books and stationery can be bought outside for a much lesser price. A parent pointed out that books available for ₹200 on e-commerce websites were being sold for ₹500 at schools. It was also mentioned that some schools had asked parents to buy books only from certain e-commerce platforms.

"The school is charging an exorbitant amount for books, and it is mandatory to buy them from the school. We have already paid close to ₹8,500 for books, and on top of this, they're demanding an additional ₹1,100 for language books. If we spend the same money outside, we can buy children's books for two years at the least," said Arjun, a parent who sends his child to a private school in Banashankari.

Many private schools also have tie-ups with vendors or bookstores where parents are required to go and buy the books. Parents alleged that at these stores, the selling price for such packages is more than the MRP. "I had to apply for leave and go to R.R. Nagar to collect my daughter's books even though her school is near BTM Layout. Earlier, they used to issue books at school only. These vending arrangements are inconvenient for working parents," said Harish C., whose daughter is in grade 5.

Parents expect some kind of regulation from the government regarding these matters. "This is an area where the government should provide guidelines. There are exorbitant prices for everything, including school fees, transportation, books," said Jayesh Mehta, another parent.

However, government officials said there was not much they could do. "The government fixes the charges for textbooks. But there is no rule or law to control the pricing of notebooks, workbooks or other books which are issued by schools. It is a contract between parents and schools. The best thing parents can do is to collectively refuse to buy these books or question the school administrations and sort out the issues," said a senior government official.

For parents, there is a fear of their children facing repercussions in case they decide to raise their voices.

"If they cancel our admission when we oppose, it is difficult to find a new school for our children in the middle of the semester or just before the beginning of the school year. If the government cannot regulate this, they should at least try to put the textbooks of all boards online so that we can avoid the process of issuing books altogether," said Sharat Chandra, whose daughter studies in grade 5.

Poor enrolment: VTU mulling over discontinuing Kannada medium engineering course

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Poor enrolment and lack of government support have put the ambitious Kannada medium engineering course started at the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), two years ago in peril.

VTU is mulling over whether to continue the course and discussions are underway on its closure, sources said.

As per the National Education Policy (NEP) recommendations, AICTE decided to offer engineering education in regional languages. It made provisions to teach Civil and Mechanical engineering courses. VTU translated all the course material of Civil and Mechanical engineering courses from English to Kannada and made it available to the students.

During the academic year of 2021-22, SJC Institute of Technology Chickballapur, Bheemanna Khandre Institute of Technology (BKIT), Bhalki, and three other private engineering colleges opted to offer Kannada medium engineering courses. A total of 17 students opted for Kannada medium Engineering courses during the CET counselling, which was conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA). But, all the students withdrew by the time of admission and joined regular engineering courses.

In the academic year of 2022-23, only SJCIT and BKIT expressed interest to offer the course. Among the 42 seats in Kannada medium Civil engineering, only one student had opted for the course. Finally, he too withdrew his admission and joined regular engineering courses. No student showed interest in the 24 Kannada medium mechanical engineering seats.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, S. Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor of VTU, said: "Over two years, we have zero admissions for the Kannada medium engineering courses. Therefore, we will withhold it, but not cancel the courses."

Poor response to BSc courses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Under the proposal of NEP and utilising classrooms and laboratory facilities effectively, VTU also started BSc courses in engineering colleges for two years.

The VTU offered this course in more than 50 engineering colleges with 40 seats capacity. But, in the academic year of 2022-23, only three engineering colleges offered BSc courses and only 32 students were enrolled in them.

Poor govt. support

Sources said due to the lack of job opportunities and research facilities, the students were not interested to opt for Kannada medium engineering courses.

Former V-C of VTU, Karisiddappa had submitted a proposal to the state government and demanded vast publicity for the courses. He stressed the need for job opportunities for Kannada medium engineering graduates and reservations in government engineering recruitment in departments like PWD, Irrigation, KPTCL, BESCOM, BDA, BBMP, and other local bodies. But, there was no response from the government.

A faculty member of VTU said, "Unless job opportunities are created, there will be no scope for Kannada medium engineering courses. The government should create some job opportunities and make available course materials for research activities. Otherwise, there is no alternative other than cancel the courses."

IIMB ranked among Top 50 Global providers of Executive Education

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) has ranked among the Top 50 Global providers of Executive Education for the fourth consecutive year in the Financial Times Executive Education Rankings for 2023.

The institute has improved its overall Global FT Executive Education Rankings this year and secured the 42nd rank. It also moved up 13 ranks in the Open Executive Education rankings and secured the 47th rank, representing the best growth amongst all B-Schools in India compared to last year. The faculty have been given the first rank amongst all B-Schools in India.

Cambridge International announces results of March exam series

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cambridge International has announced the results of its March 2023 exam series for Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGSCE) and Cambridge International AS & A Level.

The Cambridge IGCSE had a 5%, and Cambridge International AS & A Level a 12% increase with over 47,800 entries for 2022-23 compared to 45,000 entries last year. It is the largest provider of international education for 5 to 19-year-olds in India and globally.

Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, First Language English and Biology were the most popular Cambridge IGCSE subjects, while Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Economics, and Business were the most popular subjects for Cambridge International AS & A Level.

Meanwhile, there was a 6% increase in entries for STEM subjects - with over 25,539 entries in total, showing that students in India continue to have an inclination for these subjects, according to a press release.

ICSE examinations: Students of THiS institutions bring laurels

Sudhindr A.B.
BENGALURU

Students part of The Hindu in School (THiS) programme brought laurels in the ICSE (Class X) exam.

In Presidency School, Nandini Layout, 131 students appeared and 118 secured distinctions. The school achieved 100% pass over three decades. Aarush Makal (99.4%) was the topper.

St. Paul's English School, J.P. Nagar, achieved 100% pass from 35 years. In all, 178 students appeared and 165 secured distinctions. Tanmayi Banu Chand (99.4%) was the topper. In Ryan International School, Bannerghatta, 71 students appeared and 29 secured distinctions in Class X. The school has been achieving 100% pass for 13 years. Aatraya Mukherjee by securing 98.33% emerged the topper.

In Ryan International School, Yelahanka, 104 students appeared and 84 passed in first class. Chaithanya Parama Shivam (99.4%) was the topper.

Amara Jyothi English Primary School, K.R. Puram achieved 100% pass from 11 years. In all 28 students appeared and 23 secured distinctions. Shruti D.T., (95.8%) was the topper. In SJR Kengeri Public School, Kengeri Satellite Town, 163 students appeared and 62 secured distinctions. Likhith K. (99%) was the topper.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE, AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE - 560007, Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Tender Notice
Sealed Tenders are invited for **Fixing of Steel Railing at First Floor ADM Block of APS ASC C & C**. Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website for reference) to be collected from school office after submission of DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College for ₹100/- from 26 May to 01 June 2023 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 02 June 2023 at 1130 AM.
Presiding Officer
For School Management

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (OSAMB)
(A Statutory Organization of Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No.1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar.
Ph.No.0674-2952410, Email: osamboard99@yahoo.com
No. - 02 Dated - 25.05.2023
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES FOR DISTRICT AND STATE LEVEL BUYER SELLER MEET
OSAMB invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Agencies for District and State Level Buyer Seller Meet
The EOI documents covering the details of information, eligibility criteria, selection process and other terms & conditions can be downloaded from https://osamb.odisha.gov.in from 26.05.2023. The last date for submitting the EOI documents through regd / speed post is 05.06.2023 by 5 P.M. The Submission of queries is by 5.00 PM of 29.05.2023. The technical bids will be opened on 06.06.2023 at 11 A.M. The Authority reserves the right to reject any / all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.
General Manager
OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar
CAD-735: OIPR-01444/11/0007/2324

भारतीय खाद्य निगम FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय स. १०, पूर्वी छोर, मुख्य मार्ग, चौथा ब्लॉक, जयनगर
REGIONAL OFFICE No.10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, बेंगलुरु/BENGALURU - 560041
सं. आरओ केए-32.0011.0/26/2023-कॉन-रो केए दिनांक: 25.05.2023
No. RO KA-32.0011.0/26/2023-CON-RO KA Date: 25.05.2023
ई-निविदा सूचना/e-Tender Notice
तदर्थ के लिए ऑनलाइन टेंडर 1) **केएफसीएससी/आरएच/जीएस डोडाबल्लापुरा** में एचटीसी छह महीने के लिए आमंत्रित की जा रही है। एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं। ऑनलाइन बोलियां **02.06.2023** को अपराह्न **02:00** बजे तक प्रस्तुत की जानी हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।
Online Tenders for Adhoc 1) **HTC at KFCSC/RH/GS Dodaballapura** for Six months is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 02.06.2023.** For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit https://gem.gov.in
महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (KTK)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. ERS/SG/CN/2023/OT/01
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Ernakulam Jn. invites E-Tender for the following works.
1) **Name of the work:** Re-provision of signalling and interlocking arrangements and re-routing of cables in connection with releasing of existing signalling gears to facilitate Engineering Work in TVC station area as part of doubling between TVC-CAPE Section.;
2) Approximate cost of the work: ₹ **1,30,95,434; 3)** Cost of Tender Form: **Nil; 4)** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): ₹ **2,15,500; 5)** Completion Period of work: **4 (FOUR) months; 6)** Tender Closing Date & Time: **14.06.2023 at 15.30 hrs; 7)** Notice board particulars where details of can be obtained : **Office of the Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, (Construction), Southern Railway, Ernakulam Juction;**
Note: 1. GST as per extant rules is applicable for the supply and services by the tenderer. 2. Visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed terms and conditions and other details.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
LOCO WORKS, AYANAVARAM, CHENNAI - 600023
E-TENDER NOTICE
GeM Tender No: GEM/2023/B/3445437
For and on behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer / LW / PER, Southern Railway invites bids in GeM for the following work from the reputed Service Providers.
Name of the Work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Hydraulic Wheel Press of 500 Ton Capacity with U.C No: 132003004 of Electropneumatics & Hydraulics (I) Pvt. Ltd. make available at Wheel & Tyre Shop of Loco Works for a period of 5 (five) years at Loco Works, Perambur, Southern Railway, Chennai, Quantity of Contract: 5 (five) Years / (20 Quarters) of CAMC for 1 No of Hydraulic Wheel Press of 500 Ton Capacity, Period of Contract: **5 Years,** Estimated Tender Value (Inclusive of GST): ₹ **68,76,450/-,** Amount of Bid security deposit: ₹ **1,37,530,** Cost of Tender booklet: **Nil,** Tender Due on: **05-06-2023 at 17:00 hrs,** Website particulars: **https://gem.gov.in/**
NOTE:
1. Tenderer should follow the necessary corrigendum, if any, issued by the railway administration in GeM portal before bidding.
2. Validity of the offer and Deposit should be minimum **90 days** from the date of opening of Tender or up to the period being extended further if required by mutual agreement.
3. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the Tender without assigning any reasons thereto.
4. Tenders submitted in GeM portal without Bid Security Deposit or less amount of Bid Security Deposit will be summarily rejected
5. The other terms and conditions pertaining to Tender are detailed in the Bid Document.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಬೆಅಪ್ರಾ/ಉಆ(ಭೂಸ್ವಾ)/426/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.05.2023
ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಡಾ|| ಕೆ.ಶಿವರಾಮಕಾರಂತ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸರ್ವೋಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಚಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ನಗದು ಪರಿಹಾರ ಅಥವಾ 40:60 ಅನುಪಾತದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಕರೆ ಒಂದಕ್ಕೆ 9583 ಚ.ಅಡಿಗಳಂತೆ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ ಮಾಡಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಲು ಆದೇಶವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು, ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಹಾರವಾಗಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇಚ್ಛೆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿ, ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ, ಅಂತಹ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನವಾದ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಬಹುದಾದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಬಾಬ್ತು ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಐತೀರ್ಪು ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1894ರ ಕಲಂ 12(2)ರಡಿ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿ, ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಡಾ|| ಕೆ.ಶಿವರಾಮಕಾರಂತ ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರುರವರಿಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಮನವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕಾಳತಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಗಾಣಗರಹಳ್ಳಿ, ರಾಮಗೊಂಡನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಗುಣಿ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ, ಮೇಡಿ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ, ವೀರಸಾಗರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬೆಟ್ಟಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬ್ಯಾಲಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ಉಳಿಕೆ ಭೂ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಅವರ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ರಚನೆಯ ನಂತರ ಆದ್ಯತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಡಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.04.2023ರ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ** ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **30.06.2023ರವರೆಗೆ** ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದೆ ಇರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಐತೀರ್ಪಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ನಗದು ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಿಟಿ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಜಮಾ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು (ಭೂ.ಸ್ವಾ), ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS–TWO COVER–ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM
(E-Submission) IIIrd Call–Short Term

IFB No.	17 & 18/ F.CWSS to 1331 habs./JJM /DO II/ CW/2022/ Dt : 24.05.2023
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai – 625 007
Downloading Period	**29.05.2023 to 15.06.2023** upto **15.00** hours
EMD Payable	Online Mode through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Pre Bid meeting	**06.06.2023** at **11.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**15.06.2023** before **15.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**16.06.2023** at **15.30** hours at the office of Tender Invitee through E-Tender Portal

IFB No.	Name of work	Appx. value (including 18% GST)	Bid security
	Jal Jeevan Mission - CWSS to 1286 rural habitations in 11 Panchayat unions in Virudhunagar District and 45 habitations in 2 Panchayat unions of Thoothukudi District with river Tamiraparani as source. (Construction Period : 18 months and paid Maintenance: 60 months)		
17	**Package I**	**Rs 205.00 crore**	**Rs 102.50 lakhs**
18	**Package II**	**Rs 260.00 crore**	**Rs 130.00 lakhs**

DIPR/ 2744 /TENDER/2023 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"
Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai

Karnataka Labour Welfare Board
Office of Welfare Commissioner,
Karmika Kalyana Bhavana, No: 48, Mathikere Main Road, (Near RTO Office) Yashwanthpur, Bangalore- 560 022
e-mail: welfarecommissioner123@gmail.com
Website: www.klwb.karnataka.gov.in
REF No. KLWB/Admin-2/CR-04/2023-24 Dated: 24-05-2023
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION
1. **E-procurement Tenders are invited from the agencies for Providing Outsource staffs to Karnataka Labour Welfare Board, Bangalore**
2. The interested agencies can download the tender document through e-Procurement at free of cost. The Tenderers intending to participate in this tender have to register with e-Procurement.
3. The Tender documents are available from **24-05-2023** on e-Procurement website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The last date for submission of tender through online is on **02-06-2023 upto 5.00 p.m.**
4. Tender will be opened through online at **5.01 p.m. on 03-06-2023 respectively at the above office**

e-Procurement website: https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Help Desk: 080-23570266
Sd/- Welfare Commissioner,
Karnataka Labour Welfare Board, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/RO117/AAPL/2023-24

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from *Dahaad*.

Analysing *Dahaad*: the birth of strong Dalit feminist heroes

The recently released web-series, alongside its gripping tale of mysterious murders and the search for the mastermind criminal, offers an intelligent social commentary about the deep presence of caste hierarchies, oppressive feudal control and deep-rooted communalism of the ruling elites

Harish S. Wankhede

Hindi cinema has waited long enough to see a Dalit character as the male/female popular hero. The possibility that a Dalit character will appear on screen as a protagonist to transform a corrupt and criminal social structure by their power and intelligence is not an admissible topic. Such fictional heroism and charismatic attitude are allowed mainly to characters that don upper caste identities. It is characters who belong to the social elite that are the perpetual vanguards who bring justice to the victims and resolve the crises; similar power and attitude are often unavailable to Dalit characters. However, in the recently released Reema Kagti's web-series *Dahaad* on Amazon Prime, Sonakshi Sinha portrays a robust and powerful Dalit character and smashes conventional caste stereotypes, especially the role of Dalit women as suppressed and feminine subjects.

The portrayal of Dalit women

Even a cursory review about the social location of female lead characters in Hindi cinema would demonstrate that majority of the female roles are about upper caste Hindu women. Her presence signifies and embodies Indian women as a whole, neglecting any intersectionality based on caste, tribe and religion. On occasion, even when the Dalit woman is presented on screen, she is denied the 'normal' feminine space and portrayed mainly to showcase the power and authority of the social elites (as in the 1959 release *Sujata*); or with passive stereotypes of being a wretched and powerless victim (in *Ankur* released in 1974); or suffering under feudal-Brahmanical assaults (as in 1975 *Nishant*), or objectified as a submissive, raped body, with no human agency (*Damul* 1985).

Such portrayals perpetuate Brahmanical beliefs about the inferiority of Dalits and suggest that the community survives without any middle-class assets, education and modern civic entitlements. In Shekhar Kapoor's *Bandit Queen* (1994), the abject rural poverty and feudal caste oppression defines the Dalit woman's social location as a wretched subject. Though, narratives of caste atrocities and feudal oppression is closer to social reality, such perpetuation also offers voyeuristic pleasure to the non-Dalit audience and hides other visible realities about their socio-political advancements. It is only in the post-globalisation period that a noticeable shift is witnessed in the representation of Dalit women.

Empowering on screen

In some of the recent films and web-series, the Dalit women characters are, as noticeable aberrations, showcased as aspirational modern women, ready to fight for their social and political rights as well as perform the role of a mainstream popular hero. Two films released earlier, *Madam Chief Minister* (2020) and *200 Halla Ho* (2021) offer an impressive portrayal of the struggles of Dalit women who contest social and political criminals violently and emerge as popular victorious heroes. Furthermore, in two web series (*Aashram* and *Ajeeb Dastan hai yeh*), we again see Dalit female characters aspiring to lead a free and independent life against hegemonic patriarchal norms. In *Dahaad*, the lead character, Anjali Bhati further improvises this version, portraying the Dalit woman with classic feminist powers and robust individuality.

Dahaad at the outskirts emerges as an engaging crime thriller with three impressive police characters who investigate cases of serial murders in a small town of Rajasthan. However, alongside its gripping tale of mysterious murders and the search for the mastermind criminal, it offers an intelligent social commentary about the deep presence of caste hierarchies, oppressive feudal control and the deep-rooted communalism of the ruling elites. These social actualities are often neglected in crime fictions, which are often presented as merely the contest between the honest policemen and the psychopath criminal. *Dahaad*, however, underlines the conventional wisdom of crime drama, its screenplay brilliantly depicting caste-based norms and the discriminatory social psyche. It shows that caste not only contaminates the mind of the serial killer but also modern institutions like the police force.

Unlike earlier films (like *Jai Gangajal* (2016), *Mardani* (2019), *Delhi Crime* (2019), *Drishyam-2* (2021) etc.) that portrays the police officer as an upper caste woman, *Dahaad* offers a fascinating innovation by introducing a Dalit female protagonist as the police officer. We see that even though she is distanced from the precarious lives of poor Dalits and has entered into a modern-secular institution as a duty-bound officer, her social identity keeps on obstructing her performance with caste-based hurls, Brahmanical rituals and discriminatory attitudes of the ruling elites. Though the character knows her 'low' social location, she rejects performing the submissive and conventional caste role. Instead, she emerges as a dynamic, no-nonsense investigator, retaliating the offenders not through violent action but by asserting her constitutional rights, rupturing the elites' orthodoxy and patriarchal domination.

The need for more

The prime mandate of the web-series is to expose brutal crimes and explore the mind of the criminal through a multi-layered investigation by the police. Creatively, it added fascinating nuances of social realism and brought it closer to often neglected caste appendages. Presenting a Dalit woman character as a conscious individual, powered with dynamic feminist heroism is a welcoming change. On the flip side however, *Dahaad*, avoids engagement with the current socio-political background, especially the wide-spread Dalits' struggle for freedom, social dignity and justice. The revolutionary ideas of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has been the most influential force in bringing such dynamic social change, infusing confidence and charisma in Dalit bodies. Kagti defines the protagonist as a sincere, self-made righteous being, dedicated to her professional duties without analysing the deeper social history of Brahmanical domination and the resistances offered by the Dalit movement.

Though 'Caste and Dalit' issues are yet to become a significant genre within social drama narratives, Kagti's audacity to make a crime thriller with a Dalit protagonist surely makes it a winner. More such projects will not only liberate Hindi cinema from its populist and rhetorical formats but will also make the cultural industry more democratic, creative and socially responsible.

Harish S. Wankhede is Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

American singer Tina Turner passed away on May 24, 2023 after a long illness. Here is a quiz on the life and works of the queen of Rock & Roll

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1
In 1993, a biopic on Tina Turner titled *What's Love Got to Do with It* was released. Who played the singer in the film?

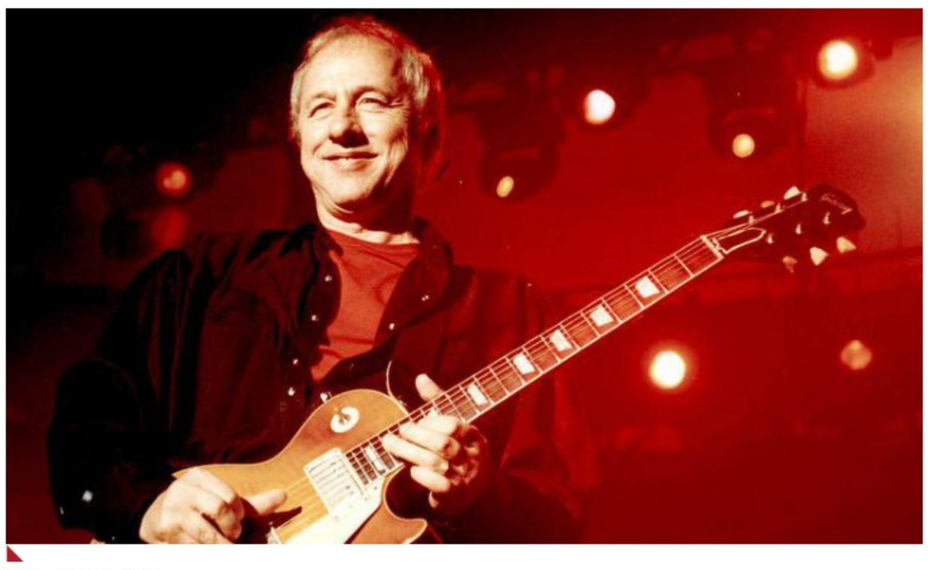
QUESTION 2
In an iconic collaboration, Turner, Cher and Elton John came together at the New York's Beacon Theatre for VH1's Divas Live! for a performance. What song did they perform?

QUESTION 3
Tina Turner never had a U.S. number 1 single. Is the statement true or false?

QUESTION 4
The singer has been inducted into the rock and roll hall of fame twice. The first time was in 1991 with her former husband and musical partner Ike. Which year was she inducted as a solo artist?

QUESTION 5
'Steamy Windows', 'The Best', 'Undercover Agent for the Blues' are songs from which Tina Turner album?

QUESTION 6
Turner received over 25 Grammy nominations in her long career. How many did she win?



Visual question:
Identify this British singer-songwriter who wrote Turner's hit song 'Private Dancer'. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The first product that Microsoft ever sold. **Ans: Altair BASIC**
2. The name of Microsoft's virtual assistant. **Ans: Cortana**
3. The current CEO of Microsoft. **Ans: Satya Nadela**
4. The name of the Microsoft program that is providing free software to schools in developing countries. **Ans: Microsoft Imagine Academy**
5. The Rolling Stones song to which Bill Gates danced when Windows 95 was launched. **Ans: Start Me Up**
6. The CEO of Microsoft from 2000 to 2014. **Ans: Steve Balmer**
Visual: The nickname for the longest-used Microsoft logo. **Ans: The 'Pac Man' logo**
Early Birds: Srijan Patra| Khwahish| Diya Biju| Himanshu Verma

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. S. Prakash wants to know the difference between 'shaving' and 'pogonotomy'."

"They mean the same, but 'pogonotomy' is rarely used. Pogonotomy is what the Greeks used to call 'the gentle art of shaving'. 'Pogon' in Greek means 'beard'. Pogonology is the study of beards."

"Sir, several readers would like to know the meaning of 'down-to-earth'."

" 'Down-to-earth' means 'realistic', 'very practical'.

She is a down-to-earth person.

She is not a dreamer. She doesn't have her head in the clouds. She has her feet firmly planted on the ground."

"Sir. Mr. S. Gopalan, Lecturer in Logic, Institute of Correspondence Course, Kamaraj University, Madurai, wants to know the difference between 'fatherland' and 'motherland.'"

"Both mean the same. Germans refer to their country as their fatherland. What's the next question?"

"Mr. Gopal Parupudi, CS & SE, College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam, wants to know the meaning of 'to haul over the coals'."

"To haul someone over the coals means to rebuke someone very strongly.

The minister hauled the officer over the coals for not carrying out his instructions.

Imagine yourself being dragged over burning coals. It is not a pleasant experience. In the past, unbelievers were punished in this fashion."

"Sir, Mr. S. Venkitaraman, 620 VI Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, wants to know whether machinery is singular or plural."

"Machinery means machines in general. It is a collective noun and is used as a singular.

The machinery used in this factory is all imported.

We may have to import a lot of machinery in the near future.

In American English, 'machineries' is used as the plural of 'machinery'. Next question, please."

"Sir, Ms. P. Sandhya, 8/554, Vedakkanthara, Palghat, wants to know the meaning of the word 'revisionist'."

"A revisionist is a communist who is inclined to interpret Marxism according to changing national needs. He doesn't strictly adhere to the views of Marx. He is rather flexible in his interpretation. The word 'revisionism' was used for the first time by Edward Bernstein in the 19th century. He propounded a policy advocating the introduction of socialism through 'evolution rather than revolution, in opposition to the orthodox view of Marxists'. The word 'revisionist' does not have a good connotation. A revisionist is considered a reactionary by orthodox communists."

"Sir, Mr. M. Sai Siva Ram, 2-2-1986/18/2B, Amberpet, Hyderabad, wants to know the pronunciation of 'martyrdom'."

"The 'a' in the word is pronounced like the 'a' in 'cart', 'path'. 'Martyr' rhymes with 'barter'; the 'o' in 'dom' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. The stress is on the first syllable. I hope it is clear."

Published in The Hindu on February 16, 1988.

Word of the day

Peeved:
aroused to impatience or anger

Synonyms: irritated, steamed, stung, riled, annoyed, nettled, miffed

Usage: *She was peeved about being left out.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/peevepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pi:vd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

KSRTC staff federation urges CM to implement free bus ride for women

Before the elections, the Congress had announced five guarantees, including 'Shakti' — free travel for women in ordinary public transport buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) Staff and Workers' Federation has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urging implementation of the Congress manifesto guarantee of providing free bus services for women in the State.

On May 24, the federation wrote to the Chief Minister saying the scheme is yet to be implemented despite there being demand for the same. "This development has led to altercations between passengers and bus conductors. Hence, we request you to implement the free bus pass for women passengers soon to avoid such confusion," wrote D.A. Vijay Bhaskar, chief secretary of the federation.

Before the Assembly elections, the Congress had announced five guarantees, including 'Shakti' – free travel for women in ordinary public transport buses across Karnataka. These guarantees are considered one of the major factors that drove voters, particularly women, to support the Congress, and for its emphatic victory in the Assembly elections. The Congress got 135 seats in the 224-member Assembly.

On May 24, the federation wrote to the Chief Minister saying, 'This development (delay in implementation) has led to altercations between passengers and bus conductors. Hence, we request you to implement the free bus pass for women passengers soon to avoid such confusion." FILE PHOTO

On Thursday, the BJP tweeted the letter, and alleged that lies by the Congress have led to unnecessary conflict between bus crews and passengers. "The time is not far when people of the State will protest against the government's irresponsibility of playing with the feelings of the public," Karnataka BJP tweeted.

H.V. Anantha Subba Rao, president of the federation, told *The Hindu*, "From the ground level, we are getting information that the promise made by the Congress in its manifesto about free bus pass for women passengers has led to confusion. Despite that, the scheme is yet to be implemented. Many passengers don't even listen to the crew, and demand a free bus ride. Hence, we wrote to the Chief Minister to implement the scheme soon."

At the first meeting of the Cabinet of the newly-formed government in the State on May 20, a decision was taken to implement the five guarantees promised to voters in the poll manifesto of the Congress. Mr. Siddaramaiah said details of implementation of these schemes would be worked out during the next Cabinet meeting. The departments have been told to issue orders for implementation of these schemes.

Man arrested on charge of assaulting Gescom staffer

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Chandrashekhar Hiremath, a resident of Kukanapalli village in Koppal district who had assaulted a Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (Gescom) staffer for demanding payment of pending electricity bills, has been arrested and sent to judicial custody.

As per a complaint lodged by R. Manjunath, lineman of Unit No 04 of Gescom, Munirabad, the accused assaulted him with his footwear when he demanded payment of pending electricity bills on Tuesday morning.

He also said that though power supply was discontinued to the house because of non-payment of bills, it was restored illegally by the consumer.

A video clip showing the accused assaulting the Gescom staffer had also gone viral.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Superintendent of Police Yashodha Vantagodi said that the Munirabad police later arrested the accused and produced him before a court which sent him to judicial custody.

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Wipro to be title sponsor of Bengaluru Marathon for next 3 years

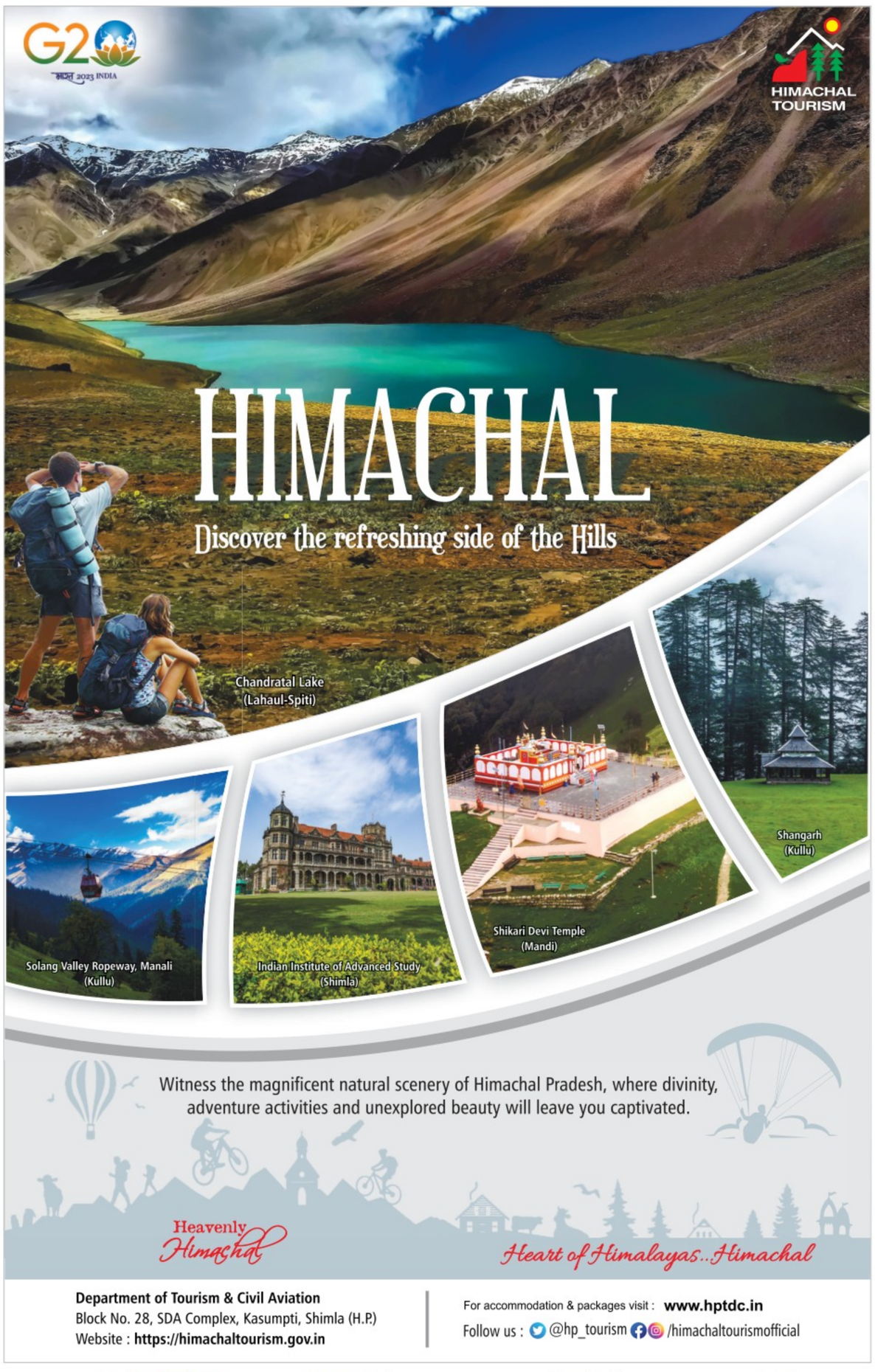
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wipro Limited announced its partnership with NEB Sports as the title sponsor of the Bengaluru Marathon for the next three years, the company in a regulatory filing said on May 25.

The 10th edition of the run would be held on October 8, 2023 and runners would cover important landmarks concluding Kanteerava Stadium.

The popular annual 'City Run' is expected to have over 20,000 participants across all age groups. The marathon will have three categories: the full marathon of 42.195 km, the half marathon of 21.1 km and the 5K Hope Run, certified by Association of International Marathons, as per the filing.

To ready the runners for the final event, NEB Sports would be organising several activities across the city including three prep runs to promote fitness. A prep run would be conducted for the visually impaired team. Another run for kids would be held at Sneha Care Home – the NGO partner for the Bengaluru Marathon.



INBRIEF

I will attend Parliament building inauguration: HDD

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Deve Gowda on Thursday said that he would participate in the inauguration of the new Parliament building. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended an invitation. However, it is not his personal programme as it is a programme of the nation. New Parliament building is the property of the nation," he said while addressing an introspection meeting of the party to decipher the reasons for the poor performance in the recently held Karnataka Assembly elections.

Bank pensioners protest

The All-India Bank Pensioners' And Retirees' Confederationheld a demonstration at Freedom Park here on Thursday to press their demand for periodical upgradation of pension. Other demands included 100% DA neutralisation to pre-November 2002 retirees, subsidisation of Group Health Insurance by banks and introduction of another pension option for retirees and resignees.

Talks continue on Cabinet expansion, portfolio allocation; list likely today

More than 50 MLAs and MLCs are camping in Delhi and lobbying with Central leaders of the party; swearing-in may be held tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Talks on the expansion of the Karnataka Cabinet have continued as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar have been attempting to push the names of their loyalists for ministerial posts in meetings in New Delhi.

Congress general secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal and Karnataka in-charge general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala held a series of meetings at the party's "war room" in New Delhi on Thursday. They also held a meeting with AICC chief M. Mallikarjun Kharge. The list is likely to be finalised on Friday and swearing-in may be held on Saturday.

Sources said a final list of Ministers to be included in the Congress government led by Mr. Siddaramaiah and their portfolios is likely to be delayed by a day as leaders have been unable to arrive at a consensus on the list of MLAs to be inducted into the Ministry.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala prior to leaving the residence of party general secretary K.C. Venugopal, in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Sought after portfolios
Sources said that Bengaluru Development, Public Works, Water Resources, Home Ministry and Agriculture are some of the most sought after portfolios, given their importance and allocation. The Finance is also a key one as it would decide allocation of money to various sectors.

Earlier in the day, loyalists of Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar met the two leaders at Karnataka Bhavan and at the residence of D.K. Suresh, MP, respectively.

The Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister reached Delhi on Wednesday and held the first round of discussion with Mr. Venugopal.

Woman representation
According to sources, there would be a woman MLA included in the Cabinet and Laxmi Hebbalkar representing Belagavi Rural has high chances of making it to the Cabinet. Currently, there is no representation of women in the Cabinet.

Similarly, a member of the Legislative Council is likely to be inducted into the Cabinet and B.K. Hariprasad is likely to enter the ministry owing to his seniority. Since U.T. Khader was elected as the Speaker of the Assembly, Mr. Hariprasad's name was doing rounds as he hails from the coastal region and provides representation to the Idiga community. MLC Prakash K. Rathod too has been lobbying hard and is seen with Mr. Siddaramaiah's camp.

More than 50 MLAs and MLCs are camping in Delhi and lobbying hard with Central leaders of the party.

Challenges in allocation
Keeping an eye on next year's Lok Sabha polls, sources said the other challenging task for both leaders is to ensure that all sections of the communities are adequately represented in the Cabinet.

There are demands from dominant Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities and OBCs that there is a need to provide higher representation for their MLAs since they have played a major role in voting the Congress to power.

As senior leaders of major communities have been already inducted into the ministry, the party is likely to give preference to young MLAs while preparing the list of ministries, sources said.

Legislators who did not show interest during the party rallies during the BJP regime are also unlikely to get ministerial berths, sources said.

Besides the lists of Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar, the party high command has its own list of MLAs to be inducted into the Ministry and this has complicated the issue further, sources maintained.

The Karnataka Cabinet can have 34 members, including the Chief Minister.

Reversing laws: Activists ask Cong. to walk the talk; BJP condemns Priyank's remarks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/HUBBALLI/MANGALURU

> All those Bills (laws) and orders that hamper the economic progress of Karnataka and its prosperity, and will affect Kannadigas, will be withdrawn. Making Karnataka once again the number one is our intention, and we will take steps in that direction.
>
> **PRIYANK KHARGE,** Minister

> What gives Priyank Kharge the confidence to speak the way he does? He still doesn't have a portfolio. He is not the CM or Dy. CM. He is not the president of Congress. Is he the new Super CM of Karnataka?
>
> **LAHAR SINGH SIROYA,** BJP Rajya Sabha member

> As people whose lives have been affected by the poor governance and repressive measures of the previous government, we look forward to more positive and proactive actions on your part that will fulfil your promises and stated intent to make Karnataka a secular, more just, equitable, and harmonious. Prioritise and initiate measures to help heal the State.
>
> **BAHUTVA KARNATAKA,** in letter to the Chief Minister

Arguments and counter-arguments have broken out a day after Minister Priyank Kharge stated that orders and legislations enforced under the previous BJP regime, which are against the State's interest, would be revised or withdrawn by the new Congress government after reviewing them.

While the BJP has slammed it and described Congress government as "reverse gear government", activists have asked the new dispensation to walk the talk in quick time.

Bahutva Karnataka, a civil society collective that had campaigned against the previous BJP government's policies and brought out a series of sector-wise reports, has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah highlighting "some urgent and long-term measures" that needs to be implemented in order to "restore the economic, social, cultural and political health of Karnataka and renew its essential nature as a Garden of Peace for All People."

Among other things, it has sought reversal of the anti-conversion Act (the Karnataka Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2021) "which goes against our Constitutional right to freedom of religion and belief", withdrawal of school textbooks introduced in 2022 and review of all dress code guidelines in educational institutions in order to restore the right to education for all. "Address the harm caused to students who were disallowed from attending exams for wearing hijab," said the letter to the Chief Minister.

Speaking in Mangaluru, activist Suresh Bhat Bakrabail said that he welcomes the statement of Mr. Priyank that the government will relook into every policy matter of the previous government. "The anti-conversion and anti-cow slaughter laws, which are against the interests of minority communities, are untenable," he said.

Meanwhile, the BJP has opposed the comments of Mr. Kharge. Terming the new dispensation as "reverse gear government", former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that the Congress government had "gone on the reverse" on its own guarantees and also the "pro-people laws" enacted by BJP government.

No portfolio yet
Lahar Singh Siroya, BJP MP, tweeted, "What gives Priyank Kharge the confidence to speak the way he does? He still doesn't have a portfolio. He is not the CM or Dy. CM. He is not the president of Congress. Is he the new Super CM of Karnataka?"

Praveen Sood takes over as CBI Director

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Praveen Sood, the former Karnataka Director-General of Police (DGP), on Thursday took over as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director.

The 1986-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Karnataka cadre has held various important positions during his tenure of about 37 years.

He was the Superintendent of Police of Ballari and Raichur, following which he became Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Bengaluru City, and the Police Commissioner of Mysuru and Bengaluru.

He served as the Additional DGP, Principal Secretary (Home) in the State; DGP (Internal Security) and DGP (Crime Investigation Department). He has worked as an adviser to the Government of Mauritius.

Mr. Sood has supervised the investigation of high profile cases involving high net-worth individuals and cases having inter-State and international ramifications and those related to cybercrime and Information Technology.

He also worked for strengthening of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems and the Interoperable Criminal Justice System) networks in Karnataka along with the judiciary.

The new CBI Director was decorated with the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2011 and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2002.

Former Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood taking charge as CBI Director in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

"He has been awarded the Chief Minister's Gold Medal for Excellence in Service in 1996; National e-Governance Gold Award for 'Most innovative use of technology for Traffic Management' in the year 2011 and Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in 2006 for contribution towards road safety and traffic management," said a CBI statement.

IIT graduate
A graduate (B. Tech) from the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi and post-graduate in Public Policy and Management from the Indian Institute of Management (Bengaluru), Mr. Sood has also studied in the Maxwell School of Governance, Syracuse University, New York.

Discussion on ban of organisations only when situation arises: Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister G. Parameshwara on Thursday said no specific discussions have taken place till now regarding banning organisations such as the Bajrang Dal, after the Congress government came to power in the State, and any views expressed in this regard may be personal in response to media queries.

RSS, Bajrang Dal
He was responding to a question on a reported statement by his Cabinet colleague Priyank Kharge that the government will ban RSS and Bajrang Dal, if peace is disturbed by them.

"We have had no discussions regarding this. In the manifesto we had said regarding Bajrang Dal and PFI -- that in case they disturb peace, we will take action against them, even going to the extent of banning them if the need arises. Other than that the issue has not been discussed," Mr. Parameshwara said. Speaking to reporters here, he said, "Several people might have shared their personal opinion when the media asked them, but all this has to be discussed. When the situation comes, the government will discuss and decide."

INDIAN RAILWAYS
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

TENDER NOTICE No. RE/MS/CIVIL/2023-06-07, Dated: 24.05.2023

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Engineer, Railway Electrification, Chennai Egmore, invites e-tenders for the following works. The tenders shall be submitted online upto **15.00 hrs** on the date mentioned below against the name of work through website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored and summarily rejected.

Item No. 1 : Tender No. **RE-MS-CIVIL-2023-06,** Name of work: Providing supporting arrangements for the erection of OHE bridge mast in the piers of bridges at various locations in between Sengottai (Excl.) and Punalur (Excl.) Stations in Madurai division of Southern Railway, App. Cash Value (in ₹) **: 6,02,52,882.66,** Earnest Money Deposit in (₹)**: 4,51,300.00,** Period of completion in months : **Nine Months,** Date of Opening: **16.06.2023**

Item No. 2 : Tender No. **RE-MS-CIVIL- 2023-07,** Name of work: Proposed construction of Staff Qtrs. Type-II - (4 Unit in GF) & (4 unit in GF + 2 unit in FF) and Type-III - (4 units in GF + 2 Unit in FF) and Type - IV - One Unit in GF, Bore well, GLR, Drain, Compound wall and approach road at TENI in Madurai Division of Southern Railway. and Proposed construction of Staff Qtrs. Type - II - 2 Unit in GF and type - III - 2 units in GF, Bore well, GLR, Drain, Compound wall and approach road at Andipatti in Madurai Division of Southern Railway, App. Cash Value (in ₹) **: 5,51,97,031.62,** Earnest Money Deposit in (₹)**: 4,26,000.00,** Period of completion in months: **Nine Months,** Date of Opening: **28.06.2023**

(Items two only)

Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and the tender documents are available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in** and the tenderers are advised to refer the same. Tenderers are also advised to quote their rates inclusive of GST.

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INDIAN RAILWAYS
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Chennai Egmore, invites e-tenders for the following works. The tenders shall be submitted online up to **15.00 hrs on 19.06.2023** through website **www.ireps.gov.in** Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored and summarily rejected. EMD and Tender forms cost (TFC) are to be paid online through IREPS Portal **(www.ireps.gov.in)** and no manual payments will be accepted for these tenders.

Sl.No. 1, Tender Notice No. RE-PGT-ELEC-TDGL-27-11, Name of Work: Outsourcing of Manning of Switching Stations and Feeding Posts in Palakkad (Excl.) - Pollachi - Dindugal (Excl.) section and Pollachi - Podanur of Palakkad and Madurai Divisions of Southern Railway for a period of six months, App. Cash Value **:** ₹ **34,12,441.23/-,** Earnest Money Deposit **:** ₹ **68,300/-,** Period of completion in months **: Six months**

Sl.No. 2, Tender Notice No. RE-PGT-ELEC-TDGL-27-12, Name of Work: Fabrication, supply and erection of anti climbing device to prevent climbing of monkeys over traction installation structures on identified monkey prone locations in Salem-Vriddhachalam section and providing HDPE polymer net on TTC/Portals/SPS to control bird menace in newly electrified section of Salem - Vriddhachalam in Salem Division, Pollachi - Palani section in Madurai division and Palakkad - Pollachi section of Palakkad division under Railway Electrification project Palakkad, App. Cash Value **:** ₹ **29,31,400/-,** Earnest Money Deposit **:** ₹ **58,600/-,** Period of completion in months **: Four months**

Sl.No. 3, Tender Notice No. RE-PGT-ELEC-TDGL-27-14, Name of Work: Electrification of IPS rooms at various LC's in Palakkad - Meenakshipuram Section & Shoranur - Nilambur Section in connection with Railway Electrification Project under Railway electrification, Palakkad in the state of Kerala, App. Cash Value **:** ₹ **34,06,928.25/-,** Earnest Money Deposit **:** ₹ **68,100/-,** Period of completion in months**: Nine months**

Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and the tender documents are available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in** and the tenderers are advised to refer the same. Tenderers are also advised to quote their rates inclusive of GST.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

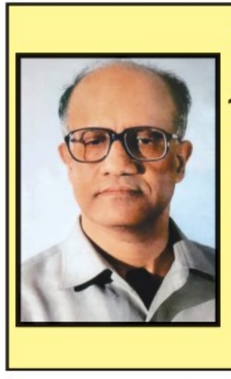
OBITUARY

Krishna Madhavan Nair, 78 yrs
Dy. Commissioner (Rtd), SB, Govt of India
S/o Late Shri Krishna Pillai & Late Smt Kamalamma
With great sorrow we inform that our beloved father left for his heavenly abode on 24 May 2023.
Deeply mourned by: Wife : Smt Ajitha M Nair
Son: Mr. Amith Raj Nair Daughter-in-law : Mrs. Sushmita
Daughter: Dr. Anjana Rani Nair Son-in-law: Mr. Akhilesh VV
Grandsons: Aadithya & Ayur
Relatives & Friends
#404, Block 2, IJ Acacia, Basavanapura, Seegehalli main road, Virgonagar post, Bangalore 560049 Mob: 9060727972, 8879336887

DEATH

KAMAL SEKAR
S/o. Late Mr. T.V.Sundaresan passed away peacefully on 13/05/2023 in Bengaluru.
Obsequies Ceremony will be performed on **28/05/2023** (Sunday) between 9:00 am & 11:00 am at Young Men's Indian Association (YMIA), Assaye Rd, Bengaluru- 560042.
Sorrowing Wife, Daughter & Granddaughter
98450 56009 / 98802 66604

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



In Revered Memory of
DR. N. SESHAGIRI
10.05.1940 - 26.05.2013
To Live in the Hearts of those you Leave Behind, is not to Die
DR. KASHINATH
on behalf of all
NICEAN"S #
9810282797

Congress govt.'s future depends on outcome of LS polls, claims HDK

The party has come to power by winning 135 seats but the government faces lack of trust, he says

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Janata Dal (S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy triggered speculations on Thursday by remarking that the future of the Congress government in the State will depend on the outcome of the Lok Sabha elections.

"Anything can happen after the Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka," Mr. Kumaraswamy remarked while addressing the introspection meeting of the party that had been organised in Bengaluru to decipher the reasons for its debacle in Karnataka Assembly elections.

"The Congress dispensation may continue to exist after the Lok Sabha polls or may collapse. I am not trying to foretell anything. But we don't know what all would take place after the Lok Sabha polls," he remarked.

He said though the Congress had come to power by winning 135 seats, the government was facing lack of trust. In such a situation, the JD (S) should focus on strengthening the party organisation and standing by people through issue-based struggles, he told the party cadre. Accusing the Congress of doing a volte face with respect to its guarantees, he said the party that earlier said that these guarantees would apply to everyone, was now maintaining that there would be conditions. He called upon party workers and leaders to launch a public campaign on the alleged "hoodwinking" of the Congress. "We need to place before people what Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar and M. Mallikarjun Kharge said before the polls. This would prompt the people to join the campaign," he said.

President of JD(S) C.M. Ibrahim and party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda at a review meeting on the party's performance in the Assembly election, at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Mr. Kumaraswamy, who expressed pain over the party's poor performance in the Karnataka Assembly elections, vowed to strengthen the party in the coming days without compromising with anything.

Stating that the JD (S) could not match the Congress and BJP in terms of financial resources, he apologised to the party candidates by saying that he could not give them the expected level of financial resources for the polls.

Targeting the Congress for the attack, he accused the party of indulging in an organised disinformation campaign against the JD(S).

Without naming the Muslim community, he said: "The Congress pitted a community against us. We provided solid support to a community that had been harassed by the BJP. We stood by that community and instilled confidence in it at every stage when the BJP troubled it. But it was painful that they did not stand by our party during the polls."

Example of HDD

Asking the party leaders and workers not to lose confidence because of adverse poll results, he recalled that party stalwart H.D. Deve Gowda had lost from both the constituencies that he had contested in 1989. "But in the next elections, a full-fledged government was formed under his leadership as Chief Minister. Also, soon he became the Prime Minister too. Debacle is not permanent. But do not lose focus," he told party workers and leaders.

Nikhil submits resignation as JD(S) youth wing chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Janata Dal (Secular) youth wing State unit president Nikhil Kumaraswamy has submitted his resignation from the post owning moral responsibility for the party's poor performance in the Assembly election.

Mr. Nikhil could not win in Ramanagara seat, which earlier elected his mother Anitha Kumaraswamy.

In the resignation letter addressed to State president C.M. Ibrahim, he has said that though the poor performance of the JD(S) had pained him, it had opened up opportunities for rebuilding the party.

Stating that the need of the hour is to convert the defeat into victory, he has said that the time has come for everyone to work for the party with commitment. "The situation also calls for making way for a new leadership. Hence, I am submitting my resignation from the post," he said.

Making it clear that he would dedicate himself to strengthening the party organisation, he has appealed to senior leaders to accept his resignation.

Mr. Ibrahim too submitted his resignation from the post of Karnataka unit president. However, it is yet to be accepted.

IndiGo flight aborts take-off after bird-hit in Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A Dubai-bound IndiGo flight aborted take-off after the aircraft was hit by a bird at Mangaluru International Airport at 8.25 a.m. on Thursday.

According to a communique from a spokesperson of the airport, the plane suffered the bird- hit as it entered the runway.

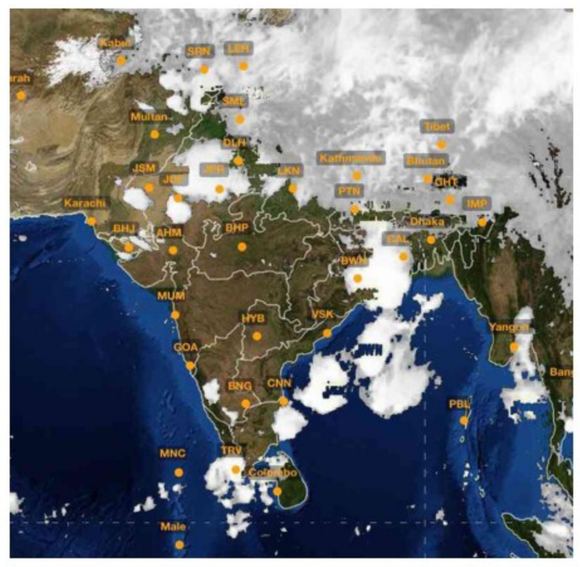
Passengers deplaned

"The pilot informed the ATC, and returned to the apron at 8.30 a.m. The 160 passengers on the flight were deplaned, and the aircraft was declared aircraft on ground for a thorough engineering inspection. The passengers were later accommodated on another IndiGo aircraft that had arrived from Bengaluru."

"The rescheduled Dubai flight left at 11.05 a.m. IndiGo has made alternative travel arrangements for the 165 passengers who were scheduled to fly to Bengaluru," the communique said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.8	21.5	Kozhikode	32	35.0	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	43.4	28.5	Kurnool	—	39.5	28.3
Aizawl	—	34.5	16.3	Lucknow	5	33.4	23.7
Allahabad	—	37.3	28.2	Madurai	—	40.3	26.6
Bengaluru	1.4	32.1	21.5	Mangaluru	7.8	33.8	25.2
Bhopal	—	—	25.4	Mumbai	—	33.9	28.0
Bhubaneswar	14.5	40.2	27.8	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	18	32.4	18.6	New Delhi	—	36.9	22.6
Chennai	—	40.8	29.0	Patna	—	37.9	25.2
Coimbatore	—	35.8	24.7	Port Blair	—	34.4	27.2
Dehradun	10	31.9	19.0	Puducherry	—	38.4	28.0
Gangtok	16	17.7	14.1	Pune	—	36.8	24.1
Goa	—	35.0	26.6	Raipur	—	41.2	30.2
Guwahati	—	34.5	21.2	Ranchi	7	37.6	21.2
Hubballi	—	35.0	22.0	Shillong	8	22.9	14.2
Hyderabad	—	37.2	28.0	Shimla	32	21.6	9.5
Imphal	3	30.8	18.5	Srinagar	7	22.5	10.8
Jaipur	20.8	34.1	20.0	Thiruvananthapuram	15	33.4	25.9
Kochi	—	32.8	26.4	Tiruchi	—	39.6	28.0
Kohima	38	23.7	14.6	Vijayawada	—	41.1	29.4
Kolkata	—	37.9	25.4	Visakhapatnam	—	34.8	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	..—	...9	...166	...194	
Bengaluru	.26	..11	101	56	70	
Chennai	...3	..96	110	78	70	
Delhi	.21	170	..—	44	...120	
Hyderabad	.13	..12	.49	65	79	
Kolkata	...7	..13	.22	45	60	
Lucknow	...7	..40	.38	57	...129	
Mumbai	...2	..52	121	32	47	
Pune	116	165	114	99	83	
Visakhapatnam	.18	..51	.35	72	...105	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jaisalmer, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 277 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

HC to take up Kadapa MP's bail plea today

The Hindu Bureau
KURNOOL

The Telananga High Court on Thursday put off the hearing on the anticipatory bail petition of Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy in former Minister Y.S. Vivekananda's murder case to Friday at 10.30 a.m., as counsel of the contesting parties needed more than an hour each for their arguments. He skipped CBI summons twice and is now at a hospital where his mother is under treatment. A CBI team is now at the police guest house.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE No.10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041
No. RO KA-28.0013.0/32/2022-SRE-RO KA Date: 25.05.2023
e-Tender Notice
E-Tenders are invited through GeM portal for Two-Bid system, **for availing of warehouse lease with service at Belgavi Revenue District in FCI, Karnataka Region.** Notice Inviting Tender and Tender forms are published in the websites **https://gem.gov.in/.** and **www.fciweb.nic.in.** Tenders should be submitted online at **https://gem.gov.in/.** within **7.00 PM on 21/06/2023.**
GENERAL MANAGER (KTK)

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
Electrical Department
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No.: SUR-GSU-L-T-2023-04R
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tender on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical Contractors for the following works. **Tender No.:** SUR-GSU-L-T-2023-04R **Name of Work:** Electrical General Service Portion of work in connection with soft upgradation of Kalaburgi & Gangapur Road stations of Solapur Division. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 2,30,32,724.09. **Bid Security:** ₹ 2,65,200/- **Completion Period:** 12 Months **Validity of Offer:** 60 Days **Date & Time of Tender Closing on Website:** 15.06.2023 at 15:00 Hrs.
Mol. 58 Sr. DEE (TRD), Solapur
RailMadad Helpline 139

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform General public that, our client **MUNNANGI SREEIVASA REDDY S/o. Late. Munnangi Ratna Reddy & Mr. DEVANATH REDDY GOPIREDDY, son of Mr. Jayaramireddy,** are the Joint owners in possession, occupation and enjoyment of all that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Khatha No.352, and House List No.360-A/9, New Khatha No.1863, then changed a Khatha No.2439/352/360-A/9, situated at Channasandra Village, Biddarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 70 feet or 21.336 mtrs; North to South 40 feet or 12.192 meters; totally measuring 2800 sq feet or 260.12 sq mtrs.
However, the Sale Deed dated 30/10/2004, which is registered as Document No.KRI-1-20674/2004-05, in Book I, stored in CD No. KRID82, in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, K R Pram, Bangalore, pertaining to above said property is lost/ misplaced from our client's custody, all his efforts to trace the said original document went futile. Hence, I request that general public who ever have got in possession and/or finder of the above Original sale deed, may deliver the same to the address mentioned hereunder within **TEN DAYS** from the date of receipt of this publication.
Notice is hereby given that no person/s should do any legal transaction in respect of the said property without consent of our client. General public are restrained from transacting above said property, failing compliance thereof, such of those person/s doing any transaction is doing at his/her/their own costs, risks and for that our client will not be liable/responsible. At the same any transaction done by any person in respect of above said property, the said transaction will not be binding on our client.
SAAN Law Associates
Advocates
No.4 (10/2), G. Floor, West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560 001, email : saanlawassociates@gmail.com
Place: Bangalore Date: 25/05/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform General public that my client Mr. BHUMA GOVINDA REDDY S/o. BHUMA VENKATA REDDY Aadhaar No.8423 9034 1188 Mobile No. 9441181686/ 9019139920/ 9008003492, residing at # H.NO.40-42-140, Bhaskar Nagar, Old Ayyapa Swamy Temple, Kurnool, A.P -518001 Now at Banglaore intends to purchase the schedule property from Smt. SUNEETHA UPPALPATI W/o. JAYA SREENIVASA PATTASWAMY D/o. U.SRIRAMA MURTHY residing at no. 11063, Paisano, Dr. Frisco, TX-75035, USA Now at Bangalore.
The said Schedule property acquired by Smt. SUNEETHA UPPALPATI under the DEED OF GIFT DT. 07.06.2017 from Her father Sri. U.SRIRAMA MURTHY the said regd. as document BOOK No.1, No. YAN-1-01500-2017-18 in CD.No.YAND 645 Dt. 07.06.2017 in the office of the Sub-registrar Yelahanka Bangalore.
Apart from the said owner, ANY person/s claiming to have any charge, any rights title, estate or interest, claim, by way of inheritance share, sale mortgage, guarantee, attachment, transfer, assignment, lease, lien, interest, minor claims, partition rights, lis-pendens charge, trust, gift, possession or encumbrance, beneficial interest, decree or orders of any court of law, contracts, or otherwise however, into or upon the said schedule property or any part or portion thereof, or against the owner/s or against the documents, whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the undersigned with documentary proof which they are basing claim within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice failing which my client will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property, No claims shall be entertained thereafter.
SCHEDULE
ALL that piece and parcel of the property vacant site bearing No. 14, Yelahanka CMC Khatha No. 59/14, situated at Agrahara village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore north, presently comes under B.B.M.P bearing No1209/. 59/14, Agrahara village,, measuring East to west 40 feet, North to south: 30 feet, totaly 1200 sq. feet.
Bounded on :
East: Road, West: Site No. 17, North by: Site no. 13 and South by: Site No. 15
Sd/-
C.Srinivasa, Advocate & Notary, No.71, II Floor, 8th Cross,Malleshwaram, Bangalore-03, Mob: 9342040439

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the public that the below mentioned Original documents of my client **Mrs. Usha Bhaskaran** W/o **S.Baskaran,** residing at No.24, 1st Block, 4th main, SIR M V Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore 560 016, has been lost/misplaced and not traceable yet. The report of the same has been lodged at the Bangalore City Police on 23-05-2023 vide Lost Report No.0572251/2023. The above documents are pertaining to her Flat No.4M, Third Floor, Amulya Park, Block-I, NRI Layout, Kalkere, Ramamurthynagar, Bangalore.If any person /s or financial institution/s, Bank/s, etc.,has/have any claim by way of Lien, Mortgage, Gift, Inheritence,Trust or in any other manner whatsoever in respect of the said Flat may send their claim/s alongwith necessary documentary proof to the undersigned within 7(seven)days from hereof, otherwise their claim/s shall be deemed to be waived and my client shall proceed.
Description of the Lost/Misplaced Original documents:
Sl.No.: **1,** Description: **Sale Deed** Document No: **9459/2003-04** Date: **22-08-2003,** Sub-Registrar Office: **K.R. Puram, Bangalore**
Sl.No.: **2,** Description: **Rectification Deed,** Document No:**15614/2005-06,** Date: **30-01-2006,** Sub-Registrar Office: **K.R. Puram, Bangalore**
If found, kindly inform to the below address:
K. B. Mukundan, B.A.,LL.B, Advocate, No.203, BSR Residency, Kanakanagar, R.T.Nagar, Bangalore-560032. Mobile: 94483 54295.

earc Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)
acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC -EOT - 001 -Trust
Encore ARC Corporate Office Address: 5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana
Public Notice for e-Auction
e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Rules).
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to City Union Bank Ltd. to secure dues in the loan account since assigned to Encore ARC (Secured Creditor) acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC-EOT-001-TRUST, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 12.07.2023 at 11:00 a.m., for recovery of outstanding dues as under:
Rs.2,64,98,444./- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Four Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Four hundred and Forty Four Only) as on 18-05-2023 together with further interest from 19-05-2023 at contractual rate till recovery and other costs, charges etc. due to the Encore ARC (Secured creditor), from Borrowers viz. Mr. A. Chinnasamy (Borrower) and Mrs. Fathima Mary (Co Borrower)
It is to be noted that besides above dues, there is an outstanding due amount of Rs.1,82,81,798.53/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Two Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Eight and paise Fifty Three Only) as on 18-05-2023 recoverable from Borrower (s) together with further interest from 19-05-2023 at contractual rate till recovery and other costs and charges, under OSL Loan Account Nos. 501812080040235, 501812080056561, 501812080053390 and 501812080047274 (Unsecured). Encore ARC reserves the right to adjust the surplus sale proceeds, if any, of mortgaged property towards aforesaid dues by exercising right of set off / general lien.
The description of the mortgaged immovable properties, and the details of Reserve Price for the Secured Assets, the Earnest Money Deposit & Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process are as under:

Item Sr No.	Name of Account	Description of Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Increment in Bidding Process (In Rs.)
1	A. Chinnaswamy & Fathima Mary	**Schedule "A" Property** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BDA Site No. L-54, Present BBMP Katha No. 622/L-54, situated at Hosur – Sajapura Road Layout, HSR Layout in Sector – 6, Bangalore, presently comes under BBMP limits, measuring East to West 24.22 Meters, North to South 15.23 Meters in all measuring 368.87 Sq.Mtr and bounded on East : Site No. L-71, West : 40 feet Road, North : Site No. L-53, South : Site No. L-55. **Schedule "B" Property** 940 Sq.ft of undivided share, right, title and interest in the schedule A property. **Schedule "C" Property** Flat bearing no. F-1 in the first floor of the building known as "KOWNDINYA" having 3155 sq feet or super built up area consisting of 3 bed rooms, hall kitchen etc with two covered car parking space in the basement floor.	2,53,00,000.00 (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Three Lakhs Only)	25,30,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only)	1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakhs Only)

Date of Inspection of Secured Assets	09/06/2023 between 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Last Date of Submission of online Bid	Before 3.00 PM on 11/07/2023
Date & time of e-Auction	12/07/2023 at 11.00 AM to 1:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each as per Terms & Conditions mentioned below. Auction Website: https://bankeauctions.com

The e-auction sale of Secured Assets, which are under physical possession of Encore ARC after said assignment, is on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "no recourse" basis for and on behalf of the Secured Creditor viz. Encore ARC.
In case the e-Auction date is declared public holiday then the date will be automatically extended to the very next working day.
Since Encore ARC is acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC-EOT – 001 -Trust only, any reference of its name in this Public Notice should be construed accordingly.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Encore ARC's website i.e. https://www.encorearc.com and https://bankeauctions.com
Interested bidders may contact Authorised officer of Encore ARC Mr. K.Nagendran Mobile No. 91762 91717, Mr B.M. Nagaraju, on mobile no. 89399 56230, and Mr. Sabari Sundar on mobile no. 7904918124 for any further information / query.
Date:26.05.2023 **Authorised Officer**
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I Syed Shamsu Zama s/o Mir Hassan Ali R/o Alipur 561213 Chikkaballapur District karnataka have changed name to Suraj S and DOB is 20/02/1981
I, AMULYA, W/o. Madhusudan Yadiyal Kolkebail Shrikanta, r/at #705, Kamala Nilaya, 7th Cross, 15th Main Road, SBM Colony, Srinivas Nagar, Banashankari 1 Stage, Bengaluru 560050 have changed my name as Amulya Ganesh vide affidavit dtd 25.05.23 sworn before Notary B.V.Nagabhushana, Bluru.
I, SHARANAPPA Bhoomannavar, S/o. Yallappa.S.B, r/a Arrcons Vishudhi, No.4, Flat No.B3, 4th Main, Amarjyothi Layout, Opp Gundappa Reddy Layout, Cholanayakanahhali, R.T.Nagar Post, Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name as Sharan Patil vide affidavit dtd 25.05.23 sworn before Notary B.V.Nagabhushana, Bluru.

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File No. RC1/920/2022/GA
Date : 26.05.2023
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Kannada cinema's content crisis

Lack of quality writing — even in much-hyped latest films like *Kranti* and *Kabzaa* — is one of the biggest reasons behind the poor show of recent mainstream Kannada films

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

A stellar performance by actor-director Rishab Shetty combined with the technical mastery of the crew produces a stunning climax in *Kantara*. But, an earlier simple conversation in the much-celebrated ecological drama is as powerful as its many visually appealing sequences.

In the film's last act, the protagonist Shiva, a carefree and feisty young tribal man, enters the house of a feudal landlord (Achyuth Kumar) with confidence. You hear a piercing screech as Shiva, belonging to a 'lower' caste, drags a chair to sit across the dining table from the treacherous zamindar. The landlord's annoyance is apparent when he sees Shiva serving himself food as an equal. "You have entered our house. Then, why can't we?" Shiva questions the landlord, who is scheming to grab the land from the natives.

This scene is a fine example of the 'plant and payoff' technique in screenwriting. Anirudh Mahesh, one of the writers of *Kantara*, explains the idea.

"In an earlier scene, the landlord slaps a tribal trying to enter his house. Naturally, his oppressive mindset is shocked to see Shiva being on a par with him later," he says. "If you want to stand up to someone, you need not get physical. A small gesture can convey your intention. That's the power of writing in cinema. We can subtly convey a strong point," he adds.

Kantara is filled with such clever writing, just like other blockbusters of 2022 from the Kannada film industry, such as *KGF: Chapter 2* and *777 Charlie*. The industry has always blown hot and cold with its form. After a terrific 2022, it's facing a content crisis with only a few quality films to boast of in 2023 so far.

Anchored in moments and not whole

Lack of quality writing – even in much-hyped latest films like *Kranti* and *Kabzaa* – is one of the biggest reasons behind the poor show of recent mainstream Kannada films. "I feel popular Kannada films work on moments and not as a whole," says screenwriting teacher and author Samvartha Sahil. "They start with one point and end with something else. There is no coherence. You feel a sense of dailiness that you can relate to in stories of Malayalam films. Kannada films lack in that aspect," he points out.

While teaching screenwriting to students of the Film and Television Institute of India, Samvartha follows a method. "I make the students write a reverse screenplay. I make them watch a film, and then ask them to break down each scene, from start to finish," says the writer from Manipal, who grew up admiring the films of Shankar Nag.

Arul Mani, writer, and English professor at St Joseph's College of Arts and Science, Bengaluru, also talks highly of Shankar Nag. "Two interestingly scripted Kannada films of the 1980s were *Accident* and *Nodi Swamy Naavirodu Heege*. While the former exuded an arthouse sensibility, the latter was a well-made mainstream film. Both films boasted writerly craft," he observes.

It's important to note that even the great Shankar Nag didn't hesitate to collaborate with writers for both *Accident* (written by Vasanth Mukashi) and *Nodi Swamy Naavirodu Heege* (written by Manohar Katadare).

Era of novel-based films

Unlike most of the present Kannada filmmakers, prominent yesteryear directors believed in adapting popular novels. The likes of T.V. Singh Thakur (*Chandavalliya Thota* based on Ta.Ra.Su's novel), S.R. Puttanna Kanagal (*Belli Moda* adapted from Triveni's novel, *Nagarahavu* adapted from three books of T.R. Subba Rao), S. Siddalingaiah (*Bhootayyana Maga Ayyu* from Goruru Ramaswamy Iyengar's short story), and Dorai-Bhagavan (*Eradu Kanasu* from Vani's novel) delivered classic book-to-screen translations.

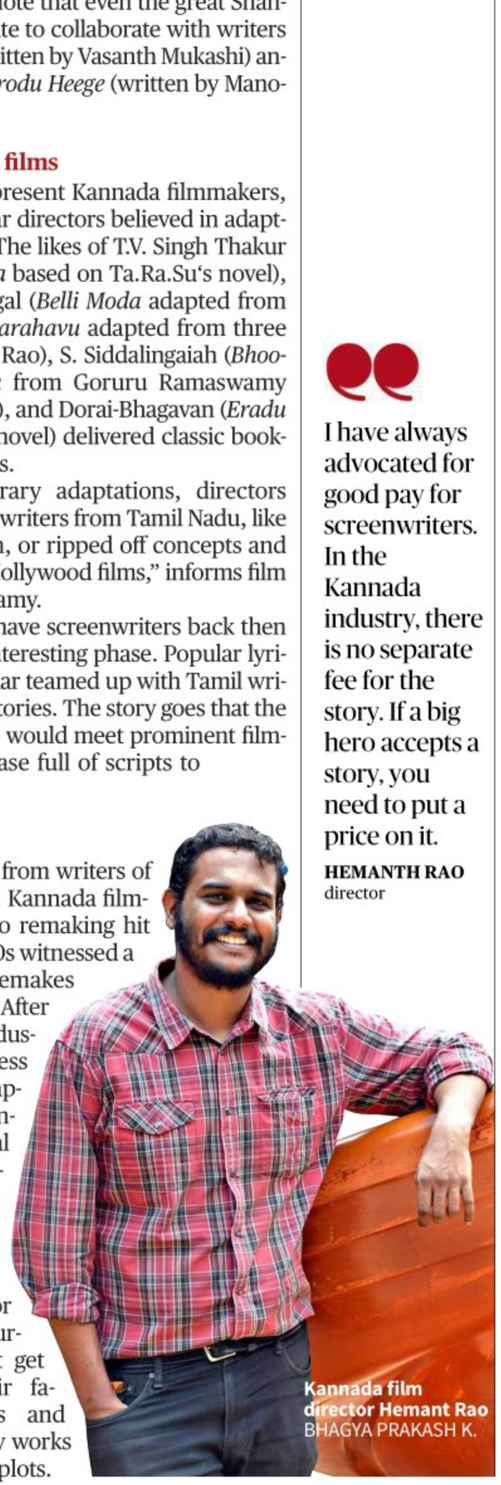
"Apart from literary adaptations, directors banked on stories of writers from Tamil Nadu, like G. Balasubramaniam, or ripped off concepts and scenes from major Hollywood films," informs film historian K. Puttaswamy.

"Kannada didn't have screenwriters back then except during one interesting phase. Popular lyricist Chi. Udayashankar teamed up with Tamil writer Sundar to write stories. The story goes that the Shankar-Sundar duo would meet prominent filmmakers with a suitcase full of scripts to sell," he recollects.

A slew of remakes

From buying stories from writers of neighbouring states, Kannada filmmakers moved on to remaking hit films. The early 2000s witnessed a flurry of tasteless remakes in Kannada cinema. After two decades, the industry has more or less moved beyond this approach, but writing interesting original films remains a challenge for directors who hesitate to collaborate with writers.

Well-known author Vasudhendra feels current directors must get inspired from their famous predecessors and look for solid literary works to write their movie plots.



Kannada film director Hemant Rao
BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

GRAPHICS: SHARATH RAM

"Take Ta.Ra.Su's *Chadurangada Mane* for instance. It's about two kings playing chess in a huge space using women as pieces. There is much to be explored here, like how women suffer the pain of standing for long hours in the boxes or how they learn to walk, like the different chess pieces (horse, camel, queen, and king). I find the story fascinating as it gives a chance to showcase all the nine rasas, and the director has enough room to add commercial elements in the plot," he reasons.

"Another example would be one of Masti Venkatesh Iyengar's short stories *Venkatigana Hendathi*. It's about a pretty woman married to an ordinary man. One day, she is taken away from him by the village's rich landlord. After many years, the landlord sends her back to her husband, who accepts her. It's a fantastic story that reflects many faces of our society. It has juicy conflicts, like the woman's plight. Malayalam cinema loves to explore such dark themes. Kannada must do it as well," he says.

> I have always advocated for good pay for screenwriters. In the Kannada industry, there is no separate fee for the story. If a big hero accepts a story, you need to put a price on it.
>
> **HEMANTH RAO**
> director

Valuing screenwriters

The poster boys of new-age Kannada cinema, though few, believe in scouting gifted writers. Rakshit Shetty built a writing team called The Seven Odds that co-wrote the blockbuster *Kirik Party*. Eight years since the film, and having worked with him in the well-mounted *Avane Srimannarayana*, many writers from The Seven Odds have turned into individual filmmakers. The idea behind forming a writing team was to make good films, Rakshit has often said. He intended to turn Seven Odds into a brand that people can trust.

Pawan Kumar (of *Lucia* and *U-Turn* fame) co-wrote Yogaraj Bhat's *Manasaare* and *Pancharangi* before turning director. In one of his podcasts, he says how Bhat listened to his feedback and made changes in the scripts according to his suggestions. Pawan says the best way to enhance writing in cinema is by respecting writers.

Giving writers credit they deserve

Hemanth Rao (*Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu*, *Kavaludaari*) vouches for giving writers the credit they deserve.

"I have always advocated for good pay for screenwriters. In the Kannada industry, there is no separate fee for the story. Sadly, makers judge writers by their appearance rather than their content. It's extremely flawed thinking. If a big hero accepts a story, you need to put a price on it," says Hemanth, who has co-written his films with Gundu Shetty.

"In the industry, no director is being paid for his story first. He is only paid for his ability to direct. So, writers who don't have the technical knowledge end up becoming directors," he says.

Hemanth has another big grouse. "It's high time Karnataka had a writer's association. We register our scripts at the Screen Writer's Association in Mumbai. We need a similar organisation locally to safeguard our ideas," he states.

Writing for women

Mainstream Kannada films, for a long time, haven't written solid characters for women. "If stories aren't blatantly driven by market demands, then it's possible to see more sensible female characters in Kannada films," opines Roopa Rao.

The filmmaker made the excellent *Gantumoote*, a coming-of-age drama from a female perspective. Her writing prowess was evident in how well she balanced a relevant subject set in a much simpler time. "Even if one isn't interested in writing women-centric films, at least he or she should ensure a balance between the representation of the male and female characters," she says.

Leaving an indelible mark

Imagination is the beginning of quality writing. Upendra, Guruprasad and Yogaraj Bhat have one thing in common. They try to be original with every attempt. Before the new-gen phase, these directors pulled the crowd to cinema halls.

Their unique offerings are a rage on social media. Meme creators use material from their films to create hilarious reels and memes for almost all situations. Upendra's films (*A*, *Upendra*) might court controversies if released today, and there is no denying that his content cared less for sensitivity. Yet, his idiosyncratic ideas were a huge hit with film buffs, making him the most popular hero of Kannada cinema in the late 90s.

"Upendra is a contrarian. He always does films contrary to people's expectations," observes senior film writer S. Shyam Prasad. "To his credit, you can't compare his stories to any other works. Perhaps, his only inspiration, though not sure, is from a character in French writer Jean-Paul Sartre's collection of stories, *The Wall*. The character of an angry protagonist shooting random people on the road in the book was re-created by Upendra in *A*.

Guruprasad's dialogues from *Matha* and *Eddelu Manjuntha* – both excellent dark comedies – always keep content creators on social media occupied. "Guruprasad is a poultry scientist who turned director for the love of films. He has watched thousands of films across languages," says Shyam.

"Yet, like Upendra, Guruprasad strives to be different," says Shyam. "As for Yogaraj Bhat, be it in his songs or dialogues, he remains updated with the latest vocabulary of college-goers. No wonder his romantic comedies are popular among youngsters," adds Shyam.

Kannada cinema: 'Writing is simple, yet it's not'

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

What are the basics of storytelling? Filmmaker D. Satya Prakash (*Rama Rama Re..., Ondalla Eradalla* fame), who ran a script-writing class for youngsters for a couple of years, has an answer. "Evoking emotions is the main job of a writer. But most of our writing enthusiasts are engineers. They are technically sound but write emotionally weak stories. They aren't exposed to literary classics. So, they fall short in the art of constructing stories," he says.

Research is the backbone of any script, says screenwriter Anirudh Mahesh. "*Kantara* began with one idea from Rishab sir. The film was set in a particular region. So, we explored cultural elements that could complement the story," he says. Anirudh loves to add a humorous touch to his dialogues. "I believe that cliches, if presented from different perspectives, will still be interesting," he says.

It's should be like how people talk

Gundu Shetty, who works with Hemanth Rao as a co-writer, explains his process of penning dialogues. "Often, the focus isn't on writing catchy dialogues. The idea is to write something that clearly conveys the scene's intention. The conversations must sound like how people talk around us," he says.

Gundu has co-written Hemanth's upcoming *Sapta Saagaradache Yello*. "In romance, we believe intimacy is stronger than words. So the challenge is to infuse these thoughts in the screenplay, and portray emotions on screen in a realistic manner," describes Gundu, who grew up loving the "meditative storytelling" of Akira Kurosawa and reading Kuvempu and Poornachandra Tejaswi.

Stories that are different

Screenwriting is a cumbersome process, says Hemanth. "Ernest Hemingway once said, 'There is nothing to write. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed'. Writing is simple, yet it's not. You sit in one place for a long time and still end up feeling tired. Stories that stand out are the ones that are different. Coming up with such content can be a taxing job," he says.

Hemanth, whose email address is accessible for writers to pitch their stories, wants filmmakers to read scripts instead of listening to narrations. "We must develop the habit of reading scripts to understand a writer's cinematic grammar. Listening to narrations won't help them understand the depth of the script. Also, gifted filmmakers can fumble while narrating a story. They could feel intimidated by the opposite person," he says.

Rakshit, in a recent interaction with reporters, spoke of going to the US to write the script of his upcoming *Richard Anthony*, a prequel to his *Ulidavaru Kandante*. "I need complete peace while writing my scripts. I am going to the US to write as I could be interrupted by several phone calls here in India. When all of them are sleeping in India, I will be writing my script," he says.

Real-life stories

Daredevil Musthafa, based on Poornachandra Tejaswi's short story, carries great promise. The film's success could inspire more book-to-screen translations. Apart from adaptations, filmmakers must tell real-life stories, feels Shyam. "You can make your life's story into a film. Sunil Kumar Desai did that with *Beladingala Baale*, and Suri did it with *Inthi Ninna Preethiya*. But you can't keep repeating your life incidents. Then you must chase for other real-life experiences for your content."

Vasudhendra makes an interesting observation. "We are seeing an increase in writers. However, people, especially youngsters, aren't reading Kannada works. Private schools ignore the language while government school teachers are mostly inept," he says. In a nutshell, this observation predicts a tricky future for writing in Kannada cinema.

Rishab Shetty and writer Anirudh Mahesh.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Films such as *Photo, Pedro, Shivamma* and *Koli Esru* turned out to be big hits on the festival circuit. Does this indicate a new movement in the Kannada parallel cinema space?

Myriad emotions (Clockwise from right) A still from *Photo*, Gopal Hegde in *Pedro*, a still from Jai Shankar Arya's *Shivamma*, Utsav Gonwar, a still from *Koli Esru*, Natesh Hegde, (below right) and Champa Shetty. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Growing under the radar

Vivek MV
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Utsav Gonwar, who shot his maiden film under dire circumstances, is happy that he never compromised on the script. "We were down to our last penny while making *Photo,* but I had freedom as funding your own films will avoid pressure or interference from the producer," says the Kannada filmmaker.

Utsav's *Photo* is a haunting account of the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on the not-so-privileged. The film received a standing ovation at the recently-concluded Habitat International Film Festival in New Delhi.

A movement seems to be on the rise in the Kannada parallel cinema space. Passionate filmmakers, who have grown up watching masters of world cinema, are making films based on stories rooted in reality that appeal to cinephiles.

Today, the advent of technology and easy access to films across the world has helped youngsters follow their dream of making films.

The films of Marathi director Nagaraj Manjule (*Fandry, Sairat*) have left Utsav questioning certain aspects of society. Utsav's *Photo* makes you question the system.

The film depicts the migrant exodus during the COVID-19 lockdown. Durgya (Veeresh Gonwar), from Raichuru, has a dream of clicking a photo of himself standing in front of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru.

When his school declares a 15-day break due to the pandemic, Durgya's mother sends him to the city to join his father, a daily wage labourer. The duo, however, is forced to walk back to their hometown due to the sudden lockdown.

The minimalistic drama and impressive sync sound are the highlights of *Photo*, which turns into a road movie in the second half.

India lacks infrastructure to release parallel films for the lay audience, opines Natesh Hegde, whose *Pedro,* backed by actor-director Rishab Shetty, is a strong take on intolerance.

Premiered at the Busan International Film Festival in 2021, *Pedro* is set in Natesh's village in the Western Ghats. It is about an outcast (Gopal Hegde) whose one blunder makes him a villain in society. *Pedro's* long shots indicate Natesh's visual style.

Technology and easy access to world films has helped many follow their dream of making films

The likes of French auteur Jean-Luc Godard, Abbas Kiarostami, and Riwik Ghatak gave Natesh the courage to plunge into cinema. "They showed me it's possible to make a film even if you aren't a film student," he says. His next *Vagachipani* is a reflection of human greed and is shaping up as a companion piece to *Pedro,* he says.

"When the OTT platforms arrived, they were interested in off-beat films. That's why we watched movies such as *Miss Lovely* and *Chauthi Koot* on OTT platforms. It's important to have conversations on unconventional films," he adds.

Prithvi Konanur's *Hadinelentu* (Seventeeners) premiered at the Busan International Film Festival before being picked as the opening film at the International Film Festival of India in Goa. In the film, all hell breaks loose when a sex video of a teenage couple – a Brahmin boy (Neeraj Mathew) and a Dalit girl (Sherlyn) – gets leaked. The film is a serious look at caste discrimination and gender bias.

Champa Shetty is a welcome change in an industry with few female filmmakers. Her debut *Ammachi Yemba Nenapu* and her recent *Koli Esru* (chicken curry) are women-centered films with impressive craft. "Women writing women's roles brings authenticity to the story," she says

Koli Esru, which won the first prize at the Indian cinema competition at the BIFFes, revolves around Huchheri (Akshatha Pandavapura), who does odd jobs to run her family that comprises a drunkard husband and school-going daughter (Apeksha Choranahalli). One day, her daughter's desire for chicken curry puts Huchheri in a complicated situation. "I balanced the theme of hunger with the plight of a woman fighting patriarchal and lustful men," says Champa.

Jai Shankar Aryar, whose *Shivamma* won the New Current Award at the Busan International Film Festival, says filmmakers must use festivals to network with producers.

Known for projecting unique stories with non-actors, Jai Shankar's *Shivamma* is about a cook at a Government school who gets into a multi-level marketing business to take care of her family. "I have completed the synopsis of my second film. Now I will start pitching it to co-producers at top-tier film markets," says Jai Shankar, a gifted Kannada filmmaker set to go places.

Musings in a metro

City Scripts, the annual urban writings festival will be held this weekend

Home, sweet home A previous edition of the City Scripts festival. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Preeti Zachariah
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"Cities are not merely bricks and mortar, but repositories of inspiration, stories and unforgettable experiences," says Sofia Juliet, part of the team behind City Scripts, the annual urban writings festival organised by the Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS), Sadashivanagar.

The festival, which will be held in Bengaluru at the IIHS campus between May 26 and 28, intends to capture the narratives and imaginations that shape our cities by engaging with urban writings and storytelling, she adds.

This is the 8th edition of the festival, which started in Bengaluru and also had editions in Chennai and Delhi, before the pandemic. "The festival has been a platform to uncover and highlight the hidden stories and experiences that lie within each city," says Juliet, adding that it brings together writers, artists, scholars, and the community, fostering meaningful conversations through readings, discussions, masterclasses and workshops, exhibitions and performances.

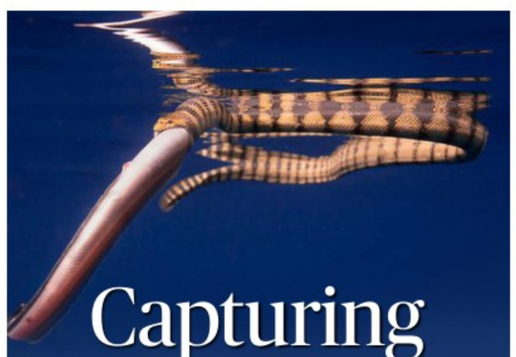
"From diving deep into the rich tapestry of city histories to igniting conversations on caste, activism, food, journalism, music, art and culture, City Scripts leaves no topic untouched," she says. "It is a one-of-a-kind festival that transcends boundaries to explore a myriad of themes that define urban life."

According to the festival's website, this edition will kick off at 5pm on May 26 with an online conversation between writers Annie Zaidi and Indira Chandrasekhar. This will be followed by a panel discussion on public parks.

Some of the other highlights of the festival include a conversation between debut novelist Aravind Jayan and writer Nisha Susan, a panel discussion on food writing and memories, another on writing cities in a feminist way and a conversation between Sundar Sarukkai and Urvashi Butalia.

The festival will also offer a series of workshops, interesting games, book pop-ups and exhibitions. "We strive to bring diversity in our curation every year," says Juliet.

City Scripts will be held at Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Sadashivanagar between May 26 and 28. To know more, log into https://cityscripts.iihs.co.in/.



Capturing wildlife wonder

Team MetroPlus

Nature inFocus, a platform for wildlife photographers and filmmakers, has announced the opening of registration for its annual photography and film competition.

The Nature inFocus Photography and Film Awards 2023 is open to participants from all over the world, with entries being accepted until June 15, 2023. The winners of the competition will receive cash prizes worth ₹12,00,000. Last year, the competition received over 16,000 entries from all over the world.

The photography competition, open to ages 17 and above, has six categories, including Animal Behavior, Animal Portraits, and Creative Nature Photography, among others, while the filmmaking competition has two categories: Indian Films and International Films, each with separate subcategories for funded and non-funded films. Photographers aged 17 and below can participate in the Young Photographer category. Participants can submit up to 30 images in one or multiple categories and up to four films under each subcategory.

For registration and more information, go to festival.natureinfocus.in

Nature's wonders Award-winning wildlife photos SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Leaving on a jet plane

MoonArra is set to tour Sweden, Germany, Austria, Italy and Hungary, collaborating with musicians there on original compositions

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Bengaluru-based jazz band MoonArra is all set to kick start its 10th international concert tour. Starting on June 1, the month-long concert tour will see the band perform in Sweden, Germany, Austria, Italy and Hungary.

During the tour, MoonArra will present 10 concerts and hold four music workshops.

"While we will be collaborating with a few new musicians as well as those we've performed with before, the highlight of this tour will be the presentation of original compositions by MoonArra and participating artistes," says Jagadeesh MR, guitarist and founder of MoonArra.

He will be joined by vocalists Madhuri Jagadeesh, Mythili Anantharaman and Jataveda Banerjee for the tour. "Collaboration between musicians has always been the core of what we believe in," he adds.

On the road again MoonArra gears up for its 10th international concert. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to Madhuri Jagadeesh, co-founder of MoonArra, while in Sweden, the band will be working with flautist Biggi Vinkeloe to perform at the Women and Roots festival where women artistes from around the world present their music and their stories from their perspective.

During the Italian leg of the tour, the band will stage Operaaga - The Music and Dance of Migrant Hearts which will see the Persian setar (a lute-like, three-stringed instrument), African percussion and classical instruments such as the saxophone, flute and cello, fall in harmony with jazz singers and movement artistes.

In Hungary, the band will be a part of the Pannonhalma Jazz Festival at the 1,000-year-old UNESCO Heritage site of the Pannonhalma Arch Abbey. "Besides our performance with three Hungarian musicians, we've also been invited to interact with the monks and the music of the abbey," adds Madhuri.

In keeping with their mantra of being a world fusion ensemble, MoonArra will be sharing the stage with drummer Magnus Dauner who is trained in Indian classical percussion.

STEPOUT

Muted focus

Watch an anthology, *Waxworks* (1924), directed by Paul Leni and Leo Birinski. The silent film, in black and white, is part of Max Mueller Bhavan's monthly series — German Cinema in Focus — curated by Shivani. It is open to all. *On May 28, 4.30pm at Max Mueller Bhavan, Indiranagar.*

Art and creativity

Join the final year exhibition of Srishti Manipal Institute's programmes and witness the projects of postgraduate and undergraduate students. *On May 27, at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Yelahanka. Call 080 24497101/02.*

Expressions 'n' interpretations

Bhavarnava is a classical dance event, jointly curated by Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dancer, Swapna Sundari and Veena Murthy. The event will also feature dances by Alekhya Punjala, Nirupama Rajendra and Madhulita Mohapatra. *On May 28, 4pm at Sri Krishnadevaraya Kalamandiram, behind Chowdaiah Memorial Hall.*

Lost opportunity

The inauguration of Parliament building should have marked a fresh start

The inauguration of the new Parliament building scheduled for May 28 could have been an occasion of national unity, but, unfortunately, politics is taking centre stage. Opposition parties have announced they would boycott the event, pointing out that the President, the head of state, and not the Prime Minister, who is the head of government, should have been inaugurating the building. There is merit in the Opposition argument, though a boycott is too extreme a response. The government and the Opposition have contributed to converting this too into an episode of acrimony, which has already made meaningful functioning of Parliament very difficult. In a joint statement, the Opposition has said that "this undignified act insults the high office of the President and violates the letter and spirit of the Constitution", and has specifically mentioned that India has its first woman Adivasi President now. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has countered the charge by recalling that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had inaugurated the Parliament Annexe building on October 24, 1975, and Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation of the parliament library on August 15, 1987. The inauguration of an annexe or a library is not, however, comparable to the inauguration of the majestic edifice of representative government.

Turning a milestone in the journey of the nation into a partisan event is certainly bad optics, but what is more worrisome is the substantial damage that is happening to democracy. The irony cannot be starker. Though a new, glittering physical space for deliberations is opening, interactions between the government and the Opposition are either absent or hostile. Democracy is not about buildings and statues, but about deliberations and the search for common ground. The ascent of executive power at the cost of parliamentary authority is a growing concern in many democracies, and India is, sadly, witnessing the same. The new building is a part of the reconstruction of the Central Vista, which is the seat of the Government of India. The BJP government did little to take the Opposition into confidence. Not only the President but also the leaders of the Opposition should have had active roles at the opening ceremony. Parliament is meant to hold the executive accountable to the people; it is not a venue for executive predominance. The unfortunate trend in recent years is a continuing erosion of this core function of Parliament. The inauguration of the new building could have been an opportunity for course correction.

After Bakhmut

Russia and Ukraine seem determined to continue their high-cost war

In December last year, while speaking at the U.S. Congress, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy compared the battle for Bakhmut to the Battle of Saratoga, in which the American revolutionaries clinched a decisive victory against the British in October 1777. "... the fight for Bakhmut will change the trajectory of our war for independence and our freedom," he said. Five months later, Bakhmut is not in Ukraine's hands. After 10 months of fighting, Russia's Ministry of Defence announced last week the city's capture in the eastern Donetsk region, its first major territorial gain since January when it took neighbouring Soledar. Ukraine claims that its troops continue to defend a small area of Bakhmut and is advancing on its flanks, but has admitted that the eastern city "is effectively in Russian hands, for now". For Vladimir Putin's Russia, which invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, it was a much-needed victory after a series of setbacks late last year when Russian troops were beaten back by the Ukrainians from the Kharkiv Oblast in the northeast and Kherson city in the south. The Russians are already in control of the whole of Luhansk and getting Bakhmut would potentially allow them to target other major urban centres in Donetsk such as Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. For Ukraine, which was preparing for a major counteroffensive, the loss of Bakhmut is a setback, but not the end of the road.

Russia, whose initial thrust into Ukraine failed to meet its objectives, seems to be learning from its battlefield mistakes as its invasion has turned into a war of attrition. According to a recent report by the London-based Royal United Services Institute, Russia's battlefield tactics, coordination, supplies, electronic warfare and air defence have improved. In Bakhmut, Russia suffered huge losses but the fighting was done by Wagner, a private military corporation, which provided much of the regular Russian troops, including the 300,000 freshly mobilised soldiers, time to build fortifications along the over 1,000-km frontline and undergo training. On the other side, Ukraine was supposed to launch its counteroffensive at the beginning of Spring, and the delay points to its battlefield problems, which were partially revealed by leaked U.S. intelligence documents earlier this year. But Ukrainian troops now have some of the most advanced weapons, thanks to the West. In recent months, Ukraine has also carried out attacks inside Russia, using drones and medium-range fire or saboteurs, bringing the war home for Mr. Putin. Now, with advanced weaponry, Ukraine is betting on its counteroffensive and ability to create disruptions inside Russia. To recover from its setbacks in Soledar and Bakhmut, Ukraine will have to regain territories quickly, while Russia tries to capitalise on the momentum created by taking Bakhmut. As both sides are determined to continue the war, there is no hope for peace or talks on the horizon.

An ordinance, its constitutionality, and scrutiny

Bishwajit Bhattacharyya

is a senior advocate in the Supreme Court of India and a former Additional Solicitor General of India

The Union of India is unlikely to succeed in wresting power of 'services' in Delhi if the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 is challenged

On May 19, 2023, the President of India exercised legislative power under Article 123 of the Constitution, during the period Parliament was in recess, to promulgate "The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023" (Ordinance). The ordinance negates a Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court of India, which was delivered on May 11, that brought "services" under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD).

Key issues

There are two issues here that require analysis: first, the scope of the Court's verdict. Second, the constitutionality of the ordinance.

While interpreting Article 239AA(3)(a), the Court ruled, *inter alia*, that these were the points: The Legislative Assembly of the NCTD has competence over entries in List II and List III, except for expressly excluded entries of List II (entries 1, 2, 18 are excluded); the executive power of NCTD is co-extensive with its legislative power, that is, it shall extend to all matters with respect to which it has power to legislate; the Union of India has executive power only over three entries in List II over which the NCTD does not have legislative competence (entries 1, 2, 18).

Thus, essentially, the Court interpreted that out of the 66 entries in List II (the State list), while the executive power of the Government of NCTD covers 63 entries, that of the Union of India is restricted to the remaining three:: public order (entry 1), police (entry 2) and land (entry 18).

Consequently, executive power over "services" (entry 41) can be exercised exclusively by the Government of the NCTD. This interpretation of the Court is consistent with the wordings in Article 239AA(3)(a). But, this interpretation was negated by the Union of India, acting through its Council of Ministers under Article 74, by triggering extraordinary legislative power of the President under Article 123 in the promulgation of an ordinance on May 19.

What the ordinance did was to read/insert entry 41 of List II (State list) into Article 239AA(3)(a), thereby expanding the scope of excepted matter from three (1, 2, 18) to four (1, 2, 18, 41).

This could not have been done without amending Article 239AA(3)(a) of the Constitution. The power conferred on Parliament under Article 239AA(3)(b) is to make fresh laws – not to amend Article 239AA(3)(a) of the Constitution.

Alteration needs an amendment

Similarly, power conferred on Parliament under Article 239AA(7)(a) is to make laws for giving effect to or supplementing the provisions contained in various clauses of Article 239AA and for all matters incidental or consequential thereto. Such a power cannot be pressed into action to amend Article 239AA(3)(a) of the Constitution. Significantly, Article 239AA(7)(b) stipulates that Parliament's law making under Article 239AA(7)(a) shall not be deemed to be an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368. No such clause has been stipulated in Article 239AA(3)(a). Therefore, altering the scope of Article 239AA(3)(a) requires constitutional amendment under Article 368; there is not an iota of doubt.

Consequently, the ordinance promulgated under Article 123 of the Constitution to expand the scope of excepted matters in Article 239AA(3)(a) is void *ab initio* and is liable to be struck down for bypassing constitutional amendment. It amounts to a colourable exercise of power. Article 123 is no substitute for Article 368 (amendment of the Constitution) in Part XX.

Besides, when a Constitution Bench (five judges) of the Supreme Court declares/interprets the law (Article 239AA(3)(a)), the same is binding on all courts and authorities in India in terms of Articles 141 and 144, respectively. Could Articles 141 and 144 have been negated by Article 123 without a constitutional amendment?

Articles 123, 141, 144 are in Part V (The Union) of the Constitution. None has a *non-obstante* clause. The aid and advice of the Union Council of Ministers to the President under Article 74 could not have overridden Article 144. The basis of the Court judgment is Article 239AA(3)(a). To alter this basis, a constitutional amendment is necessary.

A perspective

The Union of India's decision to prefer review (Article 137) and promulgate an ordinance (Article 123) simultaneously is ill-conceived; if the ordinance is challenged, the Union of India is unlikely to succeed through either route to wrest power of "services" in Delhi.

In the landmark seven-judge Bench verdict of the Supreme Court in the matter of *Krishna Kumar Singh vs State of Bihar* (2017) 2 SCC 136, the Court held that the satisfaction of the President under Article 123 is not immune from judicial scrutiny; powers under Article 123 is not a parallel source of law making or an independent legislative authority.

It was further held that the Court is empowered to look into the relevance of material placed before the President, but not its sufficiency or adequacy.

The ordinance is likely to be struck down since it expands excepted matters in Article 239AA(3)(a). Parliament alone can do this under Article 368.

Economics that looks at the lower half of the pyramid

Arun Maira

is a former Member, Planning Commission, and author of 'A Billion Fireflies: Critical Conversations to Shape a New Post-pandemic World'

The focus must be on universal social, and ecological well-being; Indian political parties and economists need to refocus on the economy

"It's the economy, stupid," Bill Clinton said in the 1990s. "While politicians and political analysts are focused on communal polarisation and caste cleavages, a deeper divide amongst classes is silently reconfiguring the Indian electorate," says the psephologist, Yogendra Yadav. The numbers of Indians left behind by the growth of the economy now exceeds 50%, with reservations in employment for "economically weaker" sections of Indian citizens regardless of caste and religion now necessary. Most Indians, whatever their religion or caste, have a felt need for a new paradigm of economics.

The theme at the Global Solutions Summit in Berlin on May 15 and 16 this year, was a new paradigm for the economy. Its backdrop was the rising tensions in the east between the United States and China, and the war in the west between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Russia. Military wars are being couched as wars between democracy and autocracy. The G-7, representing 15% of the world's citizens, who are ostensibly on the side of democracy, are autocratically and undemocratically twisting the arms of other governments (representing 85% of the people) to take their side. The think tanks of the G-20 and other countries at the summit called attention to global problems of climate change, increasing economic inequalities within and among countries, and the effects of the financial and trade sanctions imposed by the most powerful nation, which are affecting the other 85% most of all.

Changes, political and economic

Divisions among the economic "haves" and "have nots" are shaking up politics around the world, and forces on both the left and right of the political spectrum have gained strength in all countries. The extreme left wants revolutionary change in both economic and social power structures. The extreme right, fearing instability with threats from the left, wants to protect established social and economic systems. Economic liberals in the middle are muddled. They fear a concentration of political power, but allow a concentration of wealth.

Economies were reformed towards "socialism" in the last century, after the global depression, to rebalance incomes and wealth. Many European countries adopted a socialist model while maintaining their cultural traditions. Further east, communism brought about a revolutionary reform of economic and social power structures. In the West, the U.S. introduced social security, increased taxes to raise resources for the government, and introduced laws enabling labour unions within enterprises.

The tide turned in the 1980s, stirred by an economic ideology of free markets, and spurred by the policies of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. Thereafter, the objectives of reforms imposed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on countries whenever they needed economic assistance required undoing of socialist reforms made earlier. Any government that tried to strengthen the social safety net was declared as socialist and anti-reform.

Governance of all countries, whether its leaders are democratic or autocratic, must be for the benefit of common citizens – not to benefit financial investors. Ease of living of the poorest citizens and reduction of precarity in their lives must be the principal measures of good governance; not ease of doing business and reduction of risks of financial investors.

Subsidies 'bad', incentives 'good'

The new concept of reforms, following Reagan's dictum that "government is not the solution..., it is the problem", required governments to down-size their budgets and reduce taxes to make more room for capital markets. "Subsidies" for the poor became bad, while "incentives" for investors were good. The private sector, with its focus on the bottom line, can be more economically efficient than the public sector. However, the private sector is not expected to subsidise the cost of its services. Therefore, economic reforms favouring the private sector have increased economic precarity even in rich countries.

Financial capitalisation spread around the world with the globalisation of economies from the 1980s, with finance flowing freely across national borders. An elite class of global citizens and multinationals emerged, who were comfortable everywhere but did not seem to belong anywhere. Resident in many countries, they avoided paying taxes in any. Tax rates raced to the bottom to attract their investments. Reacting to these trends, both Donald Trump on the right and Bernie Sanders on the left demanded that global corporations contribute to the well-being of common citizens – Mr. Trump by bringing jobs back for Americans, Mr. Sanders by increasing taxes and expanding social security. Mr. Biden, in the middle, is struggling to pass economic reforms through a divided Congress.

"Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" are universal essentials of democracy. With "Justice" for righting historical social wrongs (particularly casteism), they are also objectives of India's Constitution. Free market capitalism is founded on the principle of liberty in the economy, with rights for everyone to use their properties as they will.

Free market economies grow with competition among individuals, firms, and nations too, all desirous of more wealth and power than others. Free market economy models do not have much place for "socialist" values of equality and fraternity. Property rights trump human rights in capitalism. Therefore, free market capitalism and liberal human democracy find it difficult to co-exist in any country.

GDP as measure of progress

The size of the GDP, a quantitative aggregate of all economic activity, whether it improves or harms people and the planet, became the overall measure of progress in the 20th century. Twentieth century economics is founded on a model of an economy as a system of materials and energy in general equilibrium. In this model, supply and demand are balanced by prices set by an invisible hand. It presumes there are no powerful monopolies that set the rules of the game. In an economists' mathematised model, politics interferes with good economics. Its mathematics has no place for human aspirations for social equality and political forces fighting for justice.

The model of economic growth that has guided national and international policies since the 1990s will not create healthy democracies. Economics needs urgent reform to guide progress towards universal social, and ecological well-being. All Indian political parties must concentrate on the economy for the sake of the people. Indian economists too must rethink the paradigm of economics and concentrate on the requirements of the lower 50% of the pyramid, and not trust wealth to trickle down on its own.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inauguration boycott

The political scene in India has descended to such low depths that party and personal emotions have overturned national feelings. In the matter of the inauguration of the new Parliament complex, I share the view that the President of India is the right person for this role. However, one is entitled to have his or her own views on the propriety of the Prime Minister having the main role. The Opposition parties' claim that they occupy the high ground in the matter of respect for Parliament and its sanctity is hollow. Their groaning about the temple of democracy and its desecration is without basis. To say that the new Parliament complex is a vanity project of the Prime Minister is again shallow as some Opposition leaders did support the need for a larger complex. It is time that all political parties in India took a deep breath and ordered their elected representatives to observe the sanctity of their own roles as Members of Parliament.

T.C. Narayan,
Bengaluru

Whether the act of the Prime Minister of not inviting the President of India to inaugurate the new Parliament is of a grave nature or otherwise is a different matter that can be discussed at length only by the fraternity of legal eagles in the country. Perhaps the Prime Minister can try and keep the Opposition informed of the reason behind him inaugurating the new building on May 28, which will go a long way in easing the tension.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

The present regime's aversion to any version of a consensus-based decision-making process with the Opposition is not a new phenomenon. It is unfortunate that the same old trend continues for the inaugural ceremony of the new Parliament building too. Through its relentless 'selective actions' against various Opposition parties, the ruling regime has already paved a way for them to unify. Now, the Centre has gifted a perfect excuse to the 'unified Opposition' to boycott the event.

The absence of 19 parties from the inaugural ceremony cannot be brushed aside easily, even if there are the best possible image-building exercises by the government. It is time for the ruling regime to listen to the Opposition parties and arrive at a consensus to make the event a successful one.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

That the Prime Minister and not India's second woman President, Droupadi Murmu, is 'consecrating' its temple of democracy, the new Parliament building, is simply a case of political mileage taking precedence over protocol. Reading about the elaborate arrangements for the event, including the installation of a sceptre called the *Sengol*, one would get a sense of the inauguration turning into a kind of 'coronation', like we recently witnessed in the United Kingdom. It is unfortunate that such a momentous event in the history of our democracy is unfolding amid controversy.

S. Sanjeevi Rao,
Puducherry

Elections. results, lessons

Elections are unpredictable events, leading to surprise victories and losses, (Editorial page, May 25) as they revolve around a lot of factors, both positive and negative. The real point is that people do not have the choice or the freedom to select persons to contest, who in turn will lead them to a better life.

A nation will make gains only if its politicians stop playing petty games and promote programmes and plans for the total development of the nation.

Arun B. Asok,
Enkakad, Thrissur, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Should States revert to the Old Pension Scheme?

PARLEY

Praveen Chakravarty
is a political economist and chair of the Data Analytics Group of the Congress party

Rohit Azad
is an economist teaching at JNU

The National Pension Scheme (NPS) was launched in 2004. While the older pension scheme offered defined benefits to all government employees without any contribution on their part, the NPS requires employees to contribute a sum throughout their working years. Almost two decades after the NPS came into effect, several States are switching back to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Earlier this year, the Central government set up a committee under the leadership of the Finance Secretary to review the working of the NPS and evolve an approach that addresses the needs of government employees while maintaining fiscal prudence. In a conversation moderated by **Priscilla Jebaraj,** Rohit Azad and Praveen Chakravarty discuss whether States should return to the OPS. Edited excerpts:

Let's start with a bit of history. Why was the NPS brought in, and what were the changes made when it was implemented in 2004?

Praveen Chakravarty: It is important to understand that this change of pension scheme was a bipartisan effort. It was initiated under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and carried forward by the Manmohan Singh government. There was political consensus on this change.

The important change is what it did to the fiscal situation of States. It was generally felt that the defined benefit – which was a guaranteed benefit of 50% of the last-drawn pay, subject to inflation, as the pension amount – under the OPS was fiscally costly for the States. Hence, there was a switch made to have a contribution from government servants throughout their career, which would then add up to what they would receive as pension once they retire, reducing the burden on the States. The primary bone of contention is that the NPS does not guarantee a certain amount. That's a justifiable peeve. But does that entail going back to the OPS? No.

Rohit, why are so many pensioners protesting against the NPS and demanding a return to the OPS?

Rohit Azad: This has to do with the fact that there is no guaranteed pension. In the OPS, you had a fixed amount, which was 50% of your last salary drawn, with inflation indexed as well. So, it took care of your retired life. We calculated [the NPS benefit] for different rates of return. It gives you one-third of what you would be getting [under the OPS] if the rate of return in the market is about 6%. Even if you get a 10% return, your pension is still going to be less than what you would have got under the OPS. So, I don't think the demand per se is about non-contribution, the demand is more to do with the guaranteed pension. And I think that's a fair thing to ask for the employees because they have given 30 to 35 years of their life [to their work].

Members of the National Joint Council of Action (NJCA) raise slogans at a demonstration demanding the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme, in Bhubaneswar. ANI

A number of States including Rajasthan, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh have decided to return to the OPS. What is their motivation?

RA: I think they are responding to the demand of the government employees. This is a small section, but they represent at least a section of the organised labour force. Additionally, they are also prominent in policymaking. It's primarily a political response.

PC: In my view, it's an intellectually lazy response. And this is not about political partisanship. The demand to revise or restructure the NPS may be justified. But the solution is not to revert to the OPS. The solution is to restructure the NPS. The OPS is fundamentally unjust. It's not only bad economics, it's also bad politics, because if you want to take 20% of the expenditure which belongs to all the people and give it to the top 4% of households in a particular State, that is inherently a bad transfer.

The States trying to revert to the OPS are also fiscally badly managed States – historically, lest it be construed as a comment on the current government. Their debt levels are at 40% of the GDP on average compared to the States that are really resisting this pressure – Tamil Nadu

> We must let States come up with their own schemes, and different States can either borrow, adapt and choose what works best for them.
> **PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTHY**

Maharashtra, Karnataka – whose debt levels are only 20%. So, essentially, the fiscally not-so-prudent States want to burden their fiscal finances even more with this switch. And it's really only four or five States that are net contributors to the Union kitty. So, if Punjab, Himachal and Madhya Pradesh want to revert to the OPS, they don't have the money for it, which means they have to borrow from the Union. Who contributes to the Union? Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka. So, I could make the argument that the future generations of Tamilians and Maharashtrians and Kannadigas are paying for this reversion to the OPS for the elite government employees of Punjab and Himachal and Madhya Pradesh.

Rohit, do you agree that the OPS is financially unviable for States?

RA: I don't think it's bad economics, because the numbers which are being thrown up in terms of what it would cost are exaggerated, this [idea that] 24% of the State finances is going to go for pensions. It's actually 12% if you take all the revenues into account. If you've taken the three main components of revenue of the State out and you're calculating it based on just one part of the revenue, then obviously the ratios would seem warped. As far as the ratio itself is concerned, why do we only need to rationalise the expenditure? Why don't we talk in terms of rationalising taxes? Why can we not think in terms of rationalising the denominator of this ratio, rather than targeting the numerator, which is expensive? And why pit one State against the other? Have such a policy for the country as a whole. I think employees' contribution is important. But guaranteed pension is something which I would defend.

Look at the U.S. Their pension fund schemes lost about $5 trillion during the 2008 crisis. So, that cohort which was retiring then, they sold their financial assets in pension schemes at a throwaway price, they didn't have an option. So, why should the employees bear the burden of what happens in the stock market?

Praveen, what do you think of guaranteed pensions as a concept?

PC: I would like to clarify a few things. First, this is actual data, which is that 20% of expenditure [not revenues] for Himachal government is spent on pension, whereas it's 12% for Tamil Nadu and 10% for Rajasthan. So, the question is, should 10% or 20% of the total pool of expenditure be spent on arguably the top two to 3% of households in that State? I think most would argue that that sounds a bit unfair.

Second, I disagree with this whole idea that there should be one central rule from Delhi. This is what the Rajasthan Chief Minister or Himachal Chief Minister said: 'Pension is a State subject. We have the powers to decide what type of pension each of our government employees should get. Delhi, you have no right to interfere.' And that's absolutely right. I will defend that right. The only problem is, they don't have the money to meet that policy goal that they want. So, there is freedom to make the decisions, but then no finances to back those decisions. And that's the context here really.

Third, I am absolutely in favour of a minimum guarantee. If they get higher than that, if the market returns deliver higher, so be it, but I am definitely in favour of a minimum guarantee.

So, you are both saying some changes are needed, whether to the OPS or to the NPS. What suggestions on the way forward would you give to the review committee headed by the Finance Secretary?

RA: My suggestion would actually be guaranteed pension similar to the OPS which is 50% of your last pay drawn, which is inflation indexed, but with contribution from the employees. This is not minimum, this is what they should get. So, in that sense, if you get a rate of return in the market which is higher than this, then the State can pocket it, but if it is lower than that, then the State pays for the balance.

PC: Like I said earlier, this is a State subject. While the Centre can set up a committee – at best, it can provide some framework and guidelines and say this is the NPS – but it's still entirely contingent on the States to choose whether to opt for it or not. So, what I would have done is just leave it to the States. I believe Andhra Pradesh already has a revised NPS framework. And that is how it should work. We must let States come up with their own schemes, and different States can either borrow, adapt and choose what works best for them.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
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NOTEBOOK

Understanding history is inevitable

For journalists, regardless of the story they are following on a particular day, context is key

Meera Srinivasan

As reporters of daily news, we are fixated on the here and now – things being said today, happenings unfolding this moment. Social media is especially unsparing, with its relentless updates hogging our attention and shrinking its span.

All the same, virtually every reporting assignment throws up something from the past. An important event, a leader or her actions, a consequential law, an unkept promise, a quirky anecdote, a policy move, or a media expose – anything that has shaped or has a bearing on today's realities.

On May 21, annually observed as 'International Tea Day,' Sri Lanka's Malaiyaha Tamil community, which is marking 200 years since its arrival from southern India to work for the British in plantations in the island's hill country, adopted a declaration calling for affirmative action. While the declaration sought solutions, and decisive policy action on several contemporary challenges, including the estate workers' abject living and working conditions, the first point read: "We as a community whose existence is a struggle resolve to remember our past and transfer the memories of our 200-year journey of struggles and achievements to the next generation."

These lines instantly took me back to a press conference in October 2019. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was elected President the following month, was addressing the media for the first time since he was declared the presidential candidate of the Rajapaksas' Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna. We quizzed him on various political and economic issues. He appeared a little irritable while responding to some questions, especially follow-up ones on Sri Lanka's rights record. "You're talking about the past all the time, let's talk about the future. I am trying to become the President of a future Sri Lanka," he said, asking us to "move on."

More recently, as families of Tamils killed during the end of Sri Lanka's civil war paid respects to their loved ones on May 18, state authorities, as usual, commemorated the following day as 'Victory Day,' hailing soldiers as war "heroes." Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said in a tweet: "Today, we remember the historic day 14 years ago when #terrorism was defeated in our beloved #SriLanka. On this solemn day, we appreciate those who selflessly sacrificed themselves in the name of #peace and #harmony. These #heroes battled not for division." Many more from the government, and other interlocutors from the Sinhala-majority south, put out similar messages. As has been the practice for 14 years now, they made no mention of the tens of thousands of civilians who died in the indiscriminate shelling of the armed forces, including in areas that were declared "no fire zones".

Days later, on May 21, the authorities made note of 'International Tea Day,' with celebratory messages on "Ceylon Tea." Again, it was hard to find any mention of the nearly 1.5 lakh working in the tea estates, whose backbreaking labour goes into making the internationally famed tea, while earning vital foreign exchange for the island.

This tendency is not typical to Sri Lanka alone; it is a trait among those holding power everywhere. They have the luxury of selectively reading history, or not reading it at all. They have the power to remain silent on portions that make them uneasy. They have the audacity to distort or even erase parts that expose them. They have the choice to remember, or to forget. But ordinary people don't. And they will not, for their lives, as they know and experience it today, is a continuation of their ancestors', and not a clean break. Recalling neglected histories, in their case, is also an act of resistance in the struggle to forge a better future.

For journalists, regardless of the story we are following today, context is key. And therefore, history is inevitable.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A longing for peace

A Manipuri woman waits for customers at the Ima market during the relaxation of curfew in Imphal, Manipur. Ima is one of the largest women's market in the country. There continues to be a curfew in the hill and valley areas of Manipur following the spurt of violence earlier this month between the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zomis. RITU RAJ KONWAR

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 26, 1973

Astronauts launched save skylab

Cape Kennedy, May 23: Three American astronauts rocketed into orbit to-day on an unprecedented mission to salvage the crippled Skylab space station and make it their arbital home for a record 28 days.

Riding with the all-Navy crew of Charles Conrad (Jr.), Dr. Joseph P. Kerwin and Paul J. Weitz were hoping that they can repair America's first orbiting laboratory and save the $2,600 million project. They started the journey on the fiery power of a Saturn rocket which blasted away from its launch pedestal at 6.30 p.m. IST. It disappeared 18 seconds later in low-hanging clouds.

"We're here, Houstan. Everything's looking good in here," Conrad reported as the Apollo ferry ship settled 10 minutes later into an orbit ranging from about 150 to 350 kilometres above the earth.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 26, 1923

In Iraq

Baghdad, May 25: The Euphrates burst for several miles the bund forty miles Northwest of Baghdad on Wednesday night and fortyfive thousand acres of cultivated land with crops were inundated and canals badly damaged. The flood is expected to reach back to Baghdad West shortly and flow into the Tigris through the canal. The country surrounding Pelujah has been inundated.

From Page One

All-in-one policy plan to spread insurance

He said on Thursday that they are striving to create an "UPI-like moment" in insurance through a plan worked out with general and life insurance firms that he termed "Bima Trinity".

A new Bima Sugam platform will integrate insurers and distributors onto one platform to make it a one-stop shop for customers, who at a later stage can pursue service requests and settlement of claims through the same portal.

The regulator is simultaneously developing a possible lynchpin product – Bima Vistar – that will be a bundled risk cover for life, health, property and casualties or accidents, with defined benefits for each risk that can be paid out faster than usual without the need for surveyors.

"We are trying to design it in a manner so that there are parametric triggers which don't need a surveyor to assess the loss. If there is a loss, the defined benefit immediately goes to the bank account of the policyholder. We are trying to price it in a manner that it is affordable," Mr. Panda explained.

Banks can possibly be given an auto-debit authority for the premium payments, the IRDA chief added.

The third part of the trinity envisaged by the IRDA entails a women-centric workforce of Bima *Vaahaks* (carriers) in each Gram Sabha that will meet the women heads of each household to convince them that a composite insurance product like Bima Vistar can "come in handy if there is any distress".

With many States digitising their birth and death registries, Mr. Panda said the IRDA platform, if integrated with those registries, could help settle claims as fast as six to eight hours or a day at the most.

Game changer

"All a policy holder needs to do is go to the platform, use his consent to pull their policy from insurers' repository and the death certificate. The engine at the back-end will process the claim from the insurance company and put the money in the bank account within 6-8 hours or maximum, the next day, the claim settlement can be in your account. We believe that this is going to be a game changer," he said.

To meet the target of providing insurance cover for all by 2047, the IRDA is also looking to form State-level insurance committees similar to the ones prevalent in the banking sector, and rope in State governments to formulate district-level plans, he said.

Separately, the IRDA has proposed amendments to the insurance laws that the government may take up soon, which will allow differentiated capital requirements for niche insurers so as to attract more investments, and permit players to add value-added services to the policies they sell.

'China constructing villages along LAC'

People's Liberation Army patrols have been observed every 15 days or so as against once in a season earlier, the source said. Small patrols are being seen in the Mana, Neeti and Thangla areas. "Construction of a likely border settlement village was seen northwest of Tholing; a military complex is under construction close by. Superstructures of buildings in both locations are complete," another source said.

In Arunachal Pradesh, opposite the Kameng area, two villages have come up in Cuna country consisting of 41 dwelling units and there are about 200 inhabitants from the Menba ethnic community, the source said.

Like in several other places, there is a military complex adjacent to the village consisting of multi-storey buildings secured by a perimeter wall with CCTVs and watch towers, the source added. As reported earlier, a large number of Xiaokang villages are under construction all along the LAC, including at the Chumbi valley facing the strategically crucial Siliguri corridor.

While China continues to expand infrastructure, India too has almost reached parity in terms of roads and other infrastructure in the Middle Sector. There has also been major induction of new technology by the Indian Army along the LAC to augment surveillance and capacity.

Since the beginning of the stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh in April 2020, there has been a build-up of forces by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and transgressions in other areas along the LAC. In August 2021, over 100 Chinese soldiers had transgressed four or five km into Indian territory at Barahoti in Uttarakhand and returned after few hours.

Chinese transgressions in the Middle Sector is not new but the number of PLA troops coming in is increasing.

The 3,488-km-long LAC is divided into the Western (Ladakh), Middle (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and Eastern (Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh) sectors.

The Indian Army has, in the last three years, signed a series of agreements for high-technology equipment, which is currently in the process of being inducted in the forward areas, official sources said. New autonomous vehicles will soon replace animal transport for transporting rations and utilities to soldiers in forward locations and snow scooters, laser dazzlers and new generation sniper rifles have also been inducted.

In another development, official sources said that the PLA has deployed an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or helicopter drone in the Middle sector, which was spotted across the LAC.

Rethink boycott decision, Nirmala tells Opposition

Minister says parties which are speaking of President's eminence ran a bitter campaign against her; she terms Parliament the 'temple of democracy', says Centre has given due respect to Murmu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told presspersons at the Raj Bhavan in Chennai on Thursday that the Opposition parties, now speaking of President Droupadi Murmu as an eminent leader from a tribal community, had run a bitter campaign against her in the run-up to her election as President.

Inaugural issue: Nirmala Sitharaman with R.N. Ravi, Tamilisai Soundararajan, L. Murugan and others in Chennai. R. RAGU

Responding to criticism from a section of Opposition parties that the Union government had "disrespected" the President by "sidelining" her from the inauguration of the new Parliament building, Ms. Sitharaman said the same parties did not just run an election campaign against Ms. Murmu but also spoke ill of her, "abused her", and said she was going to be a "rubber stamp".

"I do not wish to recall the kind of words they used at that time," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The Minister said the Opposition parties had said that Ms. Murmu represented "evil forces" and not anything the country needed. "Obviously [by evil forces] they had the RSS in mind," she said.

Ms. Sitharaman said she could give the entire list of parties and the words they used. "Not one in that group said anything to honour her at that time," she said.

Respect for President

The Union government duly respected the President, she said. "Our honourable Prime Minister himself gives her due respect. All of us are extremely proud of our Rashtrapati*ji*."

Noting that it was former Congress president Sonia Gandhi who inaugurated the Assembly building in Chhattisgarh, Ms. Sitharaman asked under what capacity she did it. Ms. Sitharaman said that going by the logic put forward by the Opposition parties now, the building should have been inaugurated by the Governor.

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan highlighted how she was not even invited to attend the inauguration of the new Assembly building in Telangana.

She said there was a contradiction in how the Opposition parties now saw the President as a non-partisan figure, but refused to see the Governors as being non-partisan.

'Not right'

On the decision by the Opposition parties to boycott the inauguration, Ms. Sitharaman said Parliament was where elected representatives of every party wernt to discuss the issues that mattered to the people.

She said Parliament was the "temple of democracy" and recalled how Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his respect by "bowing his head with his forehead touching the stairs of Parliament" when he entered the building after getting elected in 2014.

She said it was not right for the Opposition parties to boycott the inauguration, considering the importance of Parliament and appealed to them to reconsider their decision.

'One man's ego' has denied President her right: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The arrogance of your government has destroyed the parliamentary system, says Kharge

Stepping up the attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the inauguration of the new Parliament building, the Congress on Thursday said "one man's ego and desire for self-promotion" have denied the first tribal woman President her constitutional privilege.

Mr. Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the building on May 28, and as many as 21 Opposition parties have announced their decision to skip the event, citing constitutional impropriety.

"Mr. Modi, Parliament is the temple of democracy established by the people. The office of the President is the first part of Parliament. The arrogance of your government has destroyed the parliamentary system," party president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a tweet. "140 crore Indians want to know what do you want to show by taking away the right of the President to inaugurate the Parliament House?" he asked.

Taking a swipe at the Prime Minister, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "It is one man's ego and desire for self-promotion that has denied the first Adivasi woman President her constitutional privilege to inaugurate the new Parliament building."

The party alleged that the rights of the Adivasis and Dalits were not secure under the Modi government despite members of these communities occupying the highest constitutional offices.

"We want to remind the nation that it was Prime Minister Modi who, during the foundation laying ceremony for the Parliament building in December 2020, did not invite the then President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind," said Shivajirao Moghe, who heads the All India Adivasi Congress. The decision to not invite President Murmu to the inauguration exposed the mentality of the present BJP regime, he said.

Amid Centre's Tamil outreach, historical claims under scanner

NEWS ANALYSIS

Experts say there is no proof that 'invasion by Islamic radicals' forced people to migrate to South India

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The Centre's decision to install *a sengol*, a sceptre used in Tamil Nadu during the Chola period, in the new Parliament building is a continuation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to reach out to Tamils and deepen the BJP's base in the State ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

Last November, the Centre organised a month-long 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' in Varanasi, Mr. Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, to emphasise the cultural ties between the ancient holy city in north India and the southern State. An attempt to establish a 'lost' Tamil connection with Mr. Modi's home State, Gujarat, was also made through the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' in April. Now, the Centre is planning a 'Kedarnath Tamil Sangamam'.

The events are intended to counter the Dravidian ideology that dominates politics in Tamil Nadu. "Divisive thoughts have existed in Tamil Nadu for decades. It is the Prime Minister's vision to bring people together," said Chamu Krishna Shastry, chairman of the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti under the Ministry of Education, who was involved in organising the programmes.

However, experts say there is no recorded evidence of claims made at the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' that "invasion by Islamic radicals" forced people to migrate to South India to "protect their faith and identity".

For the event, about 3,000 people from Tamil Nadu with roots in Saurashtra were taken to Gujarat. During their stay, they received a booklet, which linked the "migration to south between the 11th and 16th centuries to the destruction of the Somnath Temple, starting from its raid by Muhammad of Ghazni in 1024". "It is noted on stone inscriptions found during modern archaeological excavations between 1024 and 1500 that a series of invasions by Islamic radicals forced... communities to flee their homes to escape destruction and death," it said.

Mr. Modi had said the migration followed the "first major foreign attack on the country's culture and honour", which was on the Somnath Temple.

However, Y. Subbarayalu, epigraphist and former head of Indology at the French Institute of Pondicherry, said there is no evidence to substantiate these claims. "There are people from Saurashtra settled in Madurai and other parts of Tamil Nadu. They migrated gradually, mostly during the reign of the Vijayanagar empire. There is no inscription to prove that their migration was from Somnath," he said.

Evidence thin on govt.'s claims about the sceptre

Pon Vasanth B.A.
CHENNAI

A day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed a press conference in Delhi explaining the importance of the sceptre (*sengol*) to be installed in the new Parliament building, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed presspersons in Chennai on Thursday, explaining how it is a matter of pride for Tamil Nadu.

She reiterated that it was the ritual of handing over of this sceptre, made by the *Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam* (math head) in Tamil Nadu, to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on the eve of Independence that actually symbolised and sanctified the "transfer of power" from the British to India.

The government's assertion is that Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, asked the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru if there was any procedure to signify transfer of power. Nehru in turn consulted C. Rajagopalachari, the last Governor-General of India, who in turn had the *Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam* prepare the sceptre, and flew the delegation in a special plane to Delhi.

There is ample evidence that a delegation sent by Sri la Sri Ambalavana Pandarasannadhi Swamigal, the head of the *Adheenam*, presented the sceptre to Nehru, accompanied by the recital of hymns from *Thevaram*. However, evidence is thin on the government's claim that this presenting of sceptre was treated by the leaders and

The historical 'Sengol' that will be installed in the new Parliament building. PTI

the then government as the symbolic transfer of power.

When asked about documentary evidence, Ms. Sitharaman said there were "as many documentary proof" as one wanted in the docket given to presspersons at the end of the press conference.

A perusal of these documents, however, did not establish the claims of the government. The evidence included references from books, articles, and reports in the media. It also included social media and blog posts.

The reports from Indian newspapers, including *The Hindu*, had briefly recorded the presentation of the sceptre. None spoke about it being a symbol of transfer of power. Importantly, a picture carried in *The Hindu* showed the delegation at the Central Railway Station, Chennai, on August 11, 1947, before leaving for Delhi. This indicates the delegation had most likely travelled by train and not by a special plane.

While *Time* magazine, on August 25, 1945, spoke about the head pontiff's idea of the sceptre as a symbol of power, it does not speak about Nehru reciprocating the same idea.

The book *Freedom at Midnight* also says something similar. Other evidence cited included the excerpts from Ambedkar's *Thoughts on Linguistic States*, Perry Anderson's book *The Indian Ideology*, and Yasmin Khan's *Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*, all of which were critical of certain religious rituals in which Nehru participated, but none about the use of sceptre as a symbol of power transfer.

Importantly, none of the evidence presented said the sceptre was first symbolically given to Mountbatten and taken back before presenting to Nehru. The exception is the article that appeared in *Thuglak* magazine, written by its editor S. Gurumurthy in 2021. The article records everything the government has said as the version shared by Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi, the 68th head of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Pitam, from his memory to a disciple in 1978.

The most ironic evidence presented in the docket was a blog post titled "WhatsApp History" written by famous Tamil writer Jeyamohan which in fact ridiculed this version of events.

The docket mentioned the annual policy note prepared by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department in Tamil Nadu for 2021-22, stating the sceptre "signified the transfer of power". The reference has been removed from the department's policy notes in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

It is unfair to boycott event, says Mayawati

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Thursday criticised the decision by Opposition parties to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building.

She said that she had been invited for the event but would not be able to attend because of prior commitments. Ms. Mayawati said that it was "unfair" that some parties had chosen to boycott the event over President Droupadi Murmu not being invited.

"The government has built it, so it has the right to inaugurate it. It is also unfair to link this with respect to tribal women. They [the Opposition] should have thought of this while fielding a candidate against her instead of electing her unanimously," she tweeted.

"Whether it was of Congress in the past or that of the BJP now, the BSP has always supported the government at the Centre on issues related to the country and public interest, rising above party politics and the party sees the inauguration... in the same context and welcomes it," she added.

Clarification

It was an *Adheenam* from Tamil Nadu who handed over *Sengol* to Jawaharlal Nehru and not the British as printed in the report "Sceptre which symbolised transfer of power in 1947 to be installed at new Parliament" published in these columns on May 25.

YSRCP leader stabbed in hospital after group clash in Kuppam

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

Kuppam town was tense on Thursday after a local leader of the YSRCP, who was undergoing treatment in a hospital for injuries sustained in a clash, was allegedly attacked with knives and sticks by the supporters of another leader from the same party.

According to sources, two groups of YSRCP cadre clashed on Wednesday over the procession of the deity in connection with the concluding ritual of Gangamma Jatara. Late on Wednesday night, supporters of Munaswamy, vice-chairman of Kuppam municipality, reportedly damaged the car of Vasu, a local YSRCP leader. In retaliation, Vasu's supporters reportedly damaged an earthmover belonging to Munaswamy. In the melee, Vasu was said to have been injured and was admitted to the government hospital in Kuppam.

On Thursday, while Vasu was undergoing treatment, a group of youth barged into the ward and stabbed Vasu.

APPEAL

Baby Naveen Pandit, son of Mr. Manoj Kumar, 4 months admitted in Manipal Hospitals, is diagnosed to be suffering from Congenital Heart Diseases, down's with complete AV Canal defect severe PAH. He requires to undergo AVSD Repair. The estimated cost of the surgery is **Rs. 5,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the Baby. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Naveen pandit, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Foodgrains, oilseed harvests will break records, says Centre

Minister says sugar cane production is also likely to hit record levels; estimates reached from crop feedback provided by the States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre is estimating a record production of paddy, wheat, maize, soybean, rapeseed, mustard and sugar cane, according to the "third advance estimates of production of major crops" released by the Union Agriculture Ministry here on Thursday.

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar, releasing the estimates, said the country will achieve foodgrain production of 3,305.34 lakh tonnes (lt) in the current agricultural year. He credited farmers, ability of researchers and farmer friendly policies of the Centre for the growth. The assessment of production of different crops is done based on the feedback from States.

Among foodgrains, the Centre expects cultivation of 1,355.42 lt of rice, 1,127.43 lt of wheat, 111.66 lt of bajra, 547.48 lt of coarse cereals and 359.13 lt of maize.

In 2021-22, the production of rice was 1294.71 lt and of wheat was 1077.42 lt. The total foodgrain production is likely to be higher by 149.18 lt as against the 2021-22 harvest. The increase in rice could be 60.71 lt and in wheat, it will be 50.01 lt.

Bumper harvest: The target set by the government for rice and wheat is 1,305 and 1,120 lakh tonnes, respectively. NAGARA GOPAL

The Centre expects production of 275.04 lt of pulses. The production of moong is estimated at 37.40 lt which is higher by 5.74 lt when compared to the previous year's production.

"The production of soybean and rapeseed and mustard is estimated at 149.76 lt and 124.94 lt, respectively, which is higher by 19.89 lt and 5.31 lt, respectively, than the production in 2021-22. Total oil seeds production in the country during 2022-23 is estimated at a record 409.96 lt which is higher by 30.33 lt than the previous year's oilseeds production," the Union Agriculture Ministry said in a release.

Total production of sugar cane is also likely to hit record levels of 4,942.28 lt. "The production of sugar cane is higher by 548.03 lt than the previous year's production," the Centre said.

Cotton production

The production of cotton is estimated at 343.47 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) and production of jute and mesta is at 94.94 lakh bales (180 kg).

The target set by the government for rice and wheat production is 1,305 lt and 1,120 lt, respectively. For pulses, the target is 295.20 lt and for oilseeds, the target is 413.45 lt.

Four get seven years in prison for Alwar lynching, VHP leader acquitted

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

A sessions court in Rajasthan's Alwar on Thursday sentenced four persons to imprisonment for seven years for lynching a Muslim dairy farmer from Haryana, Rakbar Khan, on suspicion of smuggling cows near Lalawandi village in July 2018. The fifth accused was acquitted for lack of evidence.

This is the first conviction by a court in a case of violence by cow vigilantes in the State. All the six accused in the Pehlu Khan lynching case of 2017 were earlier acquitted by the court, which gave them the benefit of the doubt on the basis of "contradictions" in the investigation and the prosecution's evidence.

Kareeman Bano holds a photograph of her son-in-law Rakbar Khan, who was lynched in 2018 in Alwar district. AP

Additional District and Sessions Judge Sunil Kumar Goyal held Paramjeet Singh, Dharmendra Yadav, Naresh Sharma and Vijay Kumar guilty under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 341 (wrongful restraint) of the Indian Penal Code and handed them seven years' jail term and slapped a fine of ₹10,000 each. They were also awarded one-month imprisonment and a ₹500 fine under Section 341.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Naval Kishore was acquitted due to lack of sufficient evidence. He had informed the police about Khan and another person transporting cattle.

Though he was made an accused on the basis of his telephone conversations with the other accused, the court did not accept it as "clinching evidence".

Khan and his friend, Aslam, were herding two cows on foot through the forest area in Alwar to their native village in Haryana when a group of villagers stopped and attacked them around midnight on July 20. Khan sustained injuries and died on the way to hospital.

Shah to visit Manipur soon to hold talks to restore peace

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said he would soon visit strife-torn Manipur for three days to speak to various stakeholders for ensuring lasting peace.

"Only the people of Manipur can bring back peace by removing distrust and discussing with the government. A High Court judgment led to the violence but we can ensure peace through talks," Mr. Shah said at a programme in Guwahati, asserting that the Narendra Modi-led Centre would deliver justice and not spare all those involved in spreading hatred and violence.

Earlier, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh criticised Mr. Shah for not visiting Manipur yet.

The day also saw 15 Manipur MLAs reach Guwahati to discuss with Mr. Shah the "problems created" by extremist groups under a suspension of operations (SoO) agreement with the government. The 15 included 10 belonging to the Kuki-Zomi tribal group, Manipur's Education Minister Th. Basantakumar and Assembly Speaker Th. Satyabrata. "Thirty-four MLAs had signed a petition and submitted to the Home Minister seeking a review of the SoO agreement and making the armed militants return to their designated camps," Mr. Basantakumar said.

SPG to be headed by ADG rank officer, say Home Ministry rules

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday notified fresh rules for the elite Special Protection Group (SPG).

The rules empower the Union government to frame standard operating procedures (SOPs) to be followed by State governments or Union government departments, Army, local or any civic authority to aid the SPG in performing its duties.

The rules said the Director, SPG shall be appointed by the Union government "at a level of not less than the Additional-Director General of Police [ADG] from the Indian Police Service". Earlier, the SPG has been headed by an Inspector-General of Police rank officer and an ADG rank officer, but no specific rules were notified yet.

Pawar backs Kejriwal in his fight against Centre's Ordinance

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Thursday extended support to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in his fight against the Centre's Ordinance on the control of services in Delhi.

The NCP patriarch said he would help bring non-BJP parties on board and it was time to fight for the survival of democracy. "I have completed 56 years in politics. The biggest advantage of this is that I have friends across States and parties. There is a crisis in the country and it's not an issue limited to Delhi," he said. Mr. Kejriwal, along with his Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, met Mr. Pawar and NCP leaders at Y.B. Chavan Centre as part of their nationwide tour to garner support.

Four of nomadic family crushed under tree

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Four members, including three women, of a Bakerwal family, a nomadic tribe of Jammu and Kashmir, were killed when a tree fell on their tent in Kishtwar district on Wednesday.

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NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurment Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in".**

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(An Autonomous Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030. Tel: 040-24594509 Fax: 040-24015388.

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

MANAGE-Centre for Innovation & Agripreneurship invites eligible candidates to apply for the positions of Manager-Innovation Management, Manager-Finance, Consultants (Innovation Management/Finance), Content Developer and Business Executive under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana – Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sectors Rejuvenation (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India) on contractual basis further extended based on performance. For more information: **www.manage.gov.in.**
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Email for forwarding application and CV : caeir.manage@gmail.com
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Advt. No: F-126282/Rect./Non-Faculty/2023, Dated: 26/04/2023

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna invites online applications for filling up various non-faculty posts (Group- 'A', 'B' & 'C') on direct recruitment basis. The On-line registration of application will be made available on official website of AIIMS Patna i.e. **https://www.aiimspatna.edu.in** in due course of time. Please visit official website of AIIMS Patna for further information and update.

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Website : www.ukdisasterrecovery.in; E-mail: pd.udrpaf@gmail.com

Ref. No.: 179/PMU/UDRP-AF/2023 Date 25/05/2023

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Government of India has applied financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the UGRIDP and intends to apply part of the proceeds for following packages of works. Hence Bids are invited for the following Packages and the bid documents of which, can be downloaded from the website https://uktenders.gov.in. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be downloaded by Interested eligible bidders from the website https://uktenders.gov.in which will be available from 30 May 2023 to 4 July 2023. Bids must be submitted online on the webite https://uktenders.gov.in on or before 11:30, 4 July 2023. Bids will be opened on 4 July 2023 at 3:00 PM.

S. No.	District	Package No.	Name of Package	Bid Security (In Lakh)	Cost of Bid Document (In INR.) (Including GST)
1	Champawat	11/BR/RFB/ UGRIDP/2023	Construction of 65M Span single lane Steel Truns pedestrian Bridge at Gandakhali Village to Ucholigoth village in District Champawat.	6.44	5000
2	Champawat	12/BR/RFB/ UGRIDP/2023	Construction of 75M Span single lane Steel Truss pedestrian Bridge at Gram Panchayat Chauramehta to Gurudwara in District Champawat.	13.14	5000
3	Nainital	13/BR/RFB/ UGRIDP/2023	Construction of 120M Span double lane R.C.C. Prestress concrete bridge over Sher Nala in Km 82 of Ramnagar-Kaladhungi- Haldwani- Kathgodam - Chorgalia - Sitarganj - Bijti Motor Road in District Nainital.	19.86	5000
4	Pauri	16/BR/RFB/ UGRIDP/2023	Construction of 84M Span single lane Steel Truss pedestrian Bridge over Alaknanda River in District Pauri.	12.28	5000
5	Chamoli	21/BR/RFB/ UGRIDP/2023	Construction of 125M Span single lane Suspension pedestrian Bridge over Pinder River for odar Village in District Chamoli.	15.24	5000

Note:-
1. The corrigendum for the above packages will be uploaded on website www.uktenders.gov.in & www.ukdisasterrecovery.in
2. Email id procurement.ugridp@gmail.com may be contacted for any information related to the bids.

Program Director

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS JAIPUR

No.F/MC/Store/2022-23/1066 Dated 18/5/2023

NOTICE INVITING BID

Composite tender for Housekeeping and various CAMC's at SMS Medical College, Jaipur, are invited from interested bidders **as per schedule in NIT Notice.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; and SMS Medical College, Jaipur department website.

UBN SMS2324SLRC00047

DIPR/C/7277 **PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER**

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY
Email:biddingcell@rajasthan.gov.in

Date of NIT 17.05.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

In exercise of the Power conferred by Section 10B & Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, its subsequent amendment and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified there under, the Government of Rajasthan has nofified the following major mineral blocks for the purpose of grant of mining lease / composite license and hereby invites bids in digital format only from eligible bidders through electronic acution.

The details of mineral blocks and last date of submission of bid are as summarized below:-

S No.	Block	Mineral	Lease	Start Date of Sale of Tender Documents on MSTC website	Last Date of Sale of Tender Documents on MSTC website	Bid Due date and time
1	Hariyav jaspura Block n/v Hariyav, Jaspura, Shishvi, Gupdi & Padampur Tehsil Vallabhnagar District Udaipur	Limestone	Mining Lease	17-05-2023	01-06-2023 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-06-2023 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
2	Nyorana - Dhandela Block n/v Nyorana - Dhandela Tehsil Neem ka Thana District Sikar	Iron Ore	Composite License	17-05-2023	01-06-2023 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-06-2023 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
3	Basri Ganeshpura Block n/v Basri Ganeshpura Tehsil Sahapura District Jaipur	Iron Ore	Composite License	17-05-2023	01-06-2023 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-06-2023 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
4	Ladana Block n/v Ladana - Ladani Tehsil Mavli District Udaipur	Basemetal	Composite License	17-05-2023	01-06-2023 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-06-2023 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
5	Bhabhriya ka kheda Block n/v Lakha ka Kheda Tehsil Kapasan District Chittorgarh	Basemetal & Associated Mineral	Composite License	17-05-2023	01-06-2023 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-06-2023 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)

These blocks are being put up for first attempt of auction. The interested and eligible bidders, upon registration on MSTC website <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp> will obtain login ID and password. After successful registration, the eligible bidders can purchase the Tender document online on payment of the tender fee of Rs. 2,00.00/- and can participate in the e-auction process.

The GST at the rate of 18% is applicable on the purchase of tender document. The GST applicable is to be submitted by the prospective bidder itself and the copy of receipt is to be attached with the technical bid. The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMGR/MSTC.

Detailed terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participation in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document and the Mineral Block Summary is available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Ltd, <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>; and Department of Mines & Geology < www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in> for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process are available on the website of < https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl.index.jsp>

Any revision, clarification, addendum, corrigendum, time extension, etc to the above tender documents will be hosted on websites < https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp> ; and < www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in> only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press.

Director
Department of Mines & Geology
Rajasthan, Udaipur

DIPR/C/7402

ANDHRA PRADESH TECHNOLOGY SERVICES LIMITED
3rd Floor, R&B Building, Opp. Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium, MG Road, Labbipet, Vijayawada-520 010, Andhra Pradesh, India
Ph. : 0866-2468102 | md_apts@ap.gov.in | https://www.apts.gov.in

APTS Ref. No. : ITC51-15021/4/2023-PROC-APTS, Dt. 26-05-2023

Short Open Tender Notice for procurement of 7,000 Nos. of 65'' Interactive Flat Panels (IFPs) for the School Education Department, GoAP (To be delivered on or before 12-06-2023).
Bid submission due date and time: 02-06-2023, 3.00 PM.
For further details regarding detailed Tender Notification, specifications and digital certificate please visit **https://www.apts.gov.in** and **www.apeprocurement.gov.in**
Sd/- **Managing Director, A.P. Technology Services Ltd.**

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

SL. NO.	NAME OF PROJECT	E-TENDER ID	PAC AMOUNT (Exclusive of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.				
1	Road ID 70 (Sree Padam Street)	2023_SCTLT_575081_1	Rs. 27,68,982	27/05/2023
2	Road ID 179 (Sree Chitra Road)	2023_SCTLT_575012_2	Rs. 43,33,897	01/06/2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PPP) P.W.D., RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR

No.F.7(540)SHA/PPP/2020-21/D-303 Date 17/05/2023

SHORT TERM NIT NO. 05/2023-24

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR TOLL COLLECTION

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Public Works Department, Rajasthan invites RFP for Toll Collection for ADB funded Highways **Kanwaskhanpur-Aklera section of SH-74, Deoli-Kanwas Section of SH-74 and Alot (MP)-Gangdhar-Suwansara (MP) Section of SH-19C in the state of Rajasthan** under RSHIP Tranche-I Package-01/I in specified format.

The RFP document can be viewed or / and downloaded from website : http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from 19.05.2023. Any further amendments to the RFP document shall only be made available on above website as such prospective Bidders are advised to visit the above website for the same.

(Avinash Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (PPP)
PWD, Rajasthan, Jaipur
Email:aceppp.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
Tel:- 91-141-2223547

UBN No.: PWD2324SLOB02206
DIPR/C/7388

Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage and Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Old Working Women Hostel, Behind Nehru Place, Lal Kothi, Tonk Road, Jaipur
Ph: 0141- 2742240, 2742538, 2742263 E-mail: rudsico.amrut@gmail.com, Web: urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rudsico

F18 (52) RUDSICO/AMRUT-2.0/2022-23/Tender/4653 **Date :- 23/05/2023**

NIB No. 2/2023-24

Notice inviting online bids for Sewerage Projects under AMRUT-2.0

Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & infrastructure Corporation Limited (RUDSICO), a Government of Rajasthan undertaking, invites online unconditional bids on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan through e-procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from eligible bidders in accordance with the RTPP Act 2012 and RTPP Rules 2013, amended up to date, and under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) National with single stage-two envelope Bidding procedure for following works.

S. No.	Package No.	Name of Towns	Cost (in Cr)	Bid Security (In Cr.)	Period of completion
1	AMRUT-2.0/RAJ/SEWERAGE-13	Bikaner	289.57	5.80	24 Months
2	AMRUT-2.0/RAJ/SEWERAGE-19	Jaipur (Heritage)-I (Sewer line in Hawamahal,civil line, Adarsh Nagar zone(Wards 76-79) & nag talai, BrahmapuriNallah	317.95	6.36	
3	AMRUT-2.0/RAJ/SEWERAGE-20	Jaipur (Heritage)-I (Sewer line in in Adarsh Nagar ward no 99 & 100)	143.51	2.87	
4	AMRUT-2.0/RAJ/SEWERAGE-21	Kota North	301.560	6.03	
5	AMRUT-2.0/RAJ/SEWERAGE-22	Sikar-II	147.844	2.96	
6	AMRUT-2.0/RAJ/SEWERAGE-23	Jaipur Greater	480.00	9.60	

The details of NIB can be seen at e-procurement portal of state government sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from date 23.05.2023 at 1700 Hours till the end date of online submission of bids i.e. 26.06.2023 up to 1800 Hours. Any subsequent addendum/corrigendum shall be published only at the e-procurement portal.

NIB No. RDP2324A0008, UBN No. RDP2324WLOB00013, RDP2324WLOB00014, RDP2324WLOB00015, RDP2324WLOB00016, RDP2324WLOB00017, RDP2324WLOB00018
Raj.Samwad/C/23/2848
Executive Director RUDSICO

INBRIEF

Jharkhand could not develop as expected, says Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday expressed her disappointment over Jharkhand not being developed as expected. She said this in the presence of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, while addressing a women's conference at Khunti. Ms. Murmu said the State could not develop much despite having Chief Ministers from tribal communities. "Jharkhand Chief Minister is here and I am really disappointed that Jharkhand could not develop as expected. It has been 22 years of formation of Jharkhand and from day one, most of the Chief Ministers of the State have been from tribal communities except one time from another community," she said.

NIA conducts searches in U.P. in Bhopal terror funding case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted searches in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the Bhopal terror funding case involving the proscribed organisation, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). The agency said the searches were aimed at exposing further links and conspiracies of the 10 persons who have been chargesheeted in the case. Six of them are Bangladeshi nationals and active JMB cadre. "They had entered India illegally without any valid documents, and had acquired false or forged Indian identity documents with the help of their sympathisers in India," it said.

Two more cheetah cubs die at Kuno Park; one unwell

Experts say it could be due to extreme heat, inadequate nourishment; one cub died on Tuesday; the remaining cub born to translocated Namibian cheetah is underweight and under observation

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Two more cheetah cubs died and one is unwell at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh. One cub died on Tuesday.

The extreme heat and the lack of adequate nutrition have likely contributed to the death of the two-month-old cubs, say experts associated with the cheetah reintroduction project. With this, only one cub of the litter of four born to the Namibian cheetah Jwala is now alive.

3 adult cheetahs dead

Three adult cheetahs died since 20 of the animals were relocated from Namibia and South Africa to the park, in an experiment at establishing a community of cheetahs.

On May 23, following the death of one of the cubs in the morning, a team of veterinarians observed that the remaining three were unwell.

"It was extremely hot, close to 46-47 degrees Celsius, and the cubs are entirely reliant on their mother for nutrition. The three ailing cubs were immediately taken from their mother and given palliative care. Unfortunately, two more died that evening itself," J.S. Chauhan, Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, told *The Hindu*. These two deaths were, however, made public only on Thursday.

"The third cub is now under observation. She is underweight and our plan is to take care of it for at least a month, till it reaches its expected weight. In the past two days, she recovered well, though still unwell," Mr. Chauhan said.

After a month, wildlife officials will attempt reuniting the cub with its mother.

Cheetah cubs, in the wild, reportedly have a survival rate of 10% with roughly the same fraction making it to adulthood, a press release from the Environment Ministry noted on Wednesday.

'Weakest of big cats'

Qamar Qureshi, scientist at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, said India's cheetah reintroduction plan was premised on having the animals establish a sustainable population under wild conditions.

"Cheetahs have a naturally high mortality and are the weakest of the big cats. We only intervene under extreme conditions and in this case, the animals were bonding and following their mother around. In nature, births and death are inevitable," he told *The Hindu*. "So far, what we have observed isn't too far out of the ordinary," said Dr. Qureshi, who is involved with the cheetah programme.

Jwala, the adult female, was a "hand-reared" cheetah from Namibia and this was her first litter of cubs. "It's also possible that she was inexperienced and unable to nourish all the cubs adequately. Add to that the extreme heat," Mr. Chauhan added.

Cheetah deaths at Kuno

Three adult cheetahs and three cubs died since 20 of the big cats were relocated from Namibia and South Africa to the Kuno National Park

Cheetah	Date of death	Reason
Sasha	March 27	Kidney ailment
Uday	April 23	Cardiopulmonary failure
Daksha	May 9	Injury from a violent interaction
Three cubs born to Jwala	May 23	Weakness/ extreme weather

New committee to keep watch on cheetah project

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

International and national experts are part of the panel formed in the wake of Kuno cub deaths

Following the death of three cheetah cubs this week, the Centre on Thursday appointed a new steering committee, comprising national and international experts, to oversee the implementation of Project Cheetah.

The cubs were born to a translocated Namibian cheetah at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in March 2023.

The 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee will be led by Rajesh Gopal, secretary-general, Global Tiger Forum and formerly of the India Forest Service and closely associated with Project Tiger.

Field visits

The committee's mandate is to monitor the progress of the cheetah reintroduction programme and advise the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and the National Tiger Conservation Authority; to decide on opening up the cheetah habitat for eco-tourism and, suggest regulations in this regard, and to suggest ways to involve the local community in the project activities.

The committee will be in force for two years and will convene at least one meeting every month, besides conducting field visits to the Kuno National Park.

The members include scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; some experts from the NTCA; and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department.

Also on the committee are international experts, including Adrian Tordiffe, veterinary wildlife specialist, University of Pretoria, South Africa; Laurie Marker, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia; Andrew John Fraser, Farm Olievenbosch, South Africa; and Vincent van dan Merwe, manager, Cheetah Metapopulation Project, The Metapopulation Initiative, South Africa.

Several of the international experts have been involved in the cheetah translocation project from Namibia and South Africa.

Amid reports of shortage, FSSAI to hold surveillance on milk and milk products

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aimed at curbing adulteration of milk and milk products, in both organised and unorganised sectors in all the districts of the States and Union Territories, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will conduct nationwide surveillance this year.

The announcement on Thursday comes against the backdrop of the country facing an alleged milk shortage with cooperatives reporting only a 1-2% increase in production this year and organised and unorganised sector pointing to registering stagnation.

The sector also continues to grapple with the hit it took during COVID-19 and more recently the lumpy skin disease (which caused the death of 1.9 lakh cattle) and fodder inflation at 30%.

In 2022, the FSSAI conducted a milk survey in selected 12 States. REUTERS

Meanwhile, giving details of the proposed surveillance, the FSSAI said that the operation would identify hotspots for adulteration in milk and its products and devise corrective actions/ strategies and suggest a way forward.

"The rationale behind choosing milk is due to its indispensable role in our food culture either as a fresh fluid or as processed dairy products," said the FSSAI. Milk or milk products would be tested for compliance of quality and safety.

"In 2022, the FSSAI conducted a milk survey in selected 12 States [which included 10 States where the lumpy skin disease was prevalent]. The administration of antibiotics/veterinary drugs in affected animals and spraying insecticides in the sheds may result in residual contamination in milk. In order to ascertain the safety of milk, the presence of antibiotics, pesticide residues and heavy metals were assessed in the samples collected. The outcome of the survey revealed that the milk sold in the selected 12 States is largely safe for consumption," it noted.

Multiple, back-to-back exams on a day leave CUET applicants stressed

Maitri Porecha
Safrin Begum
NEW DELHI

Five days into the commencement of Common University Entrance Test (CUET), aspirant candidates are complaining that as many as seven subjects have been squeezed into their schedule on a single day, which has led to extreme stress.

Bhoomi Goyal, 16, a Delhi University aspirant, will appear for seven exams under the CUET on May 30. Ms. Goyal is one of the nearly 15 lakh candidates from across India appearing for the CUET across 272 cities.

According to the city slip received by Ms. Goyal, she will have to appear for physical education, maths, English, Hindi, general test, legal studies and agriculture papers on a single day. "This means I will be writing exams from 7 a.m. to up to 9 p.m. How is this humanly possible," Ms. Goyal told *The Hindu*.

Put to test: Students waiting in a queue in front of a CUET examination centre in New Delhi on Wednesday. R.V. MOORTHY

Incessant delays in supplying city slips and admit cards to students have also left them high and dry. "While the National Testing Agency [NTA] had promised to give city slips on April 30, they later provided these only on May 14, that too for first phase applicants who were supposed to appear for exams between May 21 and 24. This poses a problem for students who have to plan their travel in advance to appear for exams," said Ms. Goyal's uncle Vipul Anekant.

Health issues

Another aspirant, 18-year-old Nancy, scheduled to appear for six papers, is suffering from health issues and is sceptical about how she will perform in the tests. "My doctor warned me against sitting still for more than an hour because I have spondylitis, and I'm unsure how I will be able to sit and write all six papers on that specific day," said Ms. Nancy.

Damini, 18, who appeared for CUET on May 21 at a centre in Sector 62 Noida, said her exams got delayed by at least two hours. "Up to four students fainted in the scorching heat and there were no water supply or air conditioners," she alleged.

A total of 2,65,248 students appeared for CUET-UG in the first phase which was held between May 21 and 24.

"In 2% centres, nearly 12 out of 450, the exams started later than scheduled due to power fluctuations, students needing to follow staggered entry and so on," said M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission.

Congress asks why haste in rolling out fortified rice

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government rolled out fortified rice under the public distribution system (PDS) without ascertaining the ill-effects of such rice on the health of 80 crore beneficiaries, the Congress alleged on Thursday.

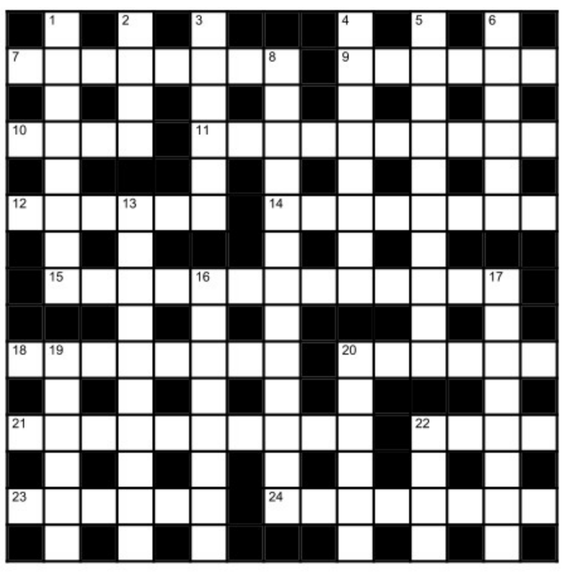
Addressing reporters, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera asked what was the hurry to implement the scheme of providing fortified rice containing prescribed micronutrients and "what relation does the government have with the foreign conglomerate Royal DSM" that has bagged a major contract to distribute the rice. He said the scheme was rolled out despite multiple warnings by experts, government officials, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and NITI Aayog.

TH CROSSWORD + 13875

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Embarrassed US agent chased by Spooner (3-5)
9 Recall banks closing for Dussehra yearly (6)
10 Neither partner bored by one film genre (4)
11 Extended advance then vacated expecting to shift inside (10)
12 Fanatics run away from acquaintances (6)
14 Fight to stop guard working without uniform in holy place (8)
15 Cool van in a spot of danger (6,7)
18 Doctor had a nice ranch (8)
20 Group is so gullible about secret chat (6)
21 Thought of bosom supporter in bad weather (10)
22 Bachelor leaving lounge for maiden's show (4)
23 Shrewd leader of UP state assembly (6)
24 Poet composing sonnet entertains US state (8)

Down

1 Spanish girl working in a store (8)
2 Nadal returns from a long distance (4)
3 These are seen on Snakes and Ladders (6)
4 Country's President - a good man or criminal? (8)
5 Classified French and German articles vocally criticize society (5,5)
6 Bolt's occupation (6)
8 Be indifferent when members of parliament keep mum? (4,4,1,4)
13 Over time, I turn to exercise with promises to be healthy (10)
16 Disappears from Shiv Sena (8)
17 Operation after love failure (8)
19 Both sides lost! Game over! (6)
20 Imagine wandering without a sign (6)
22 Illusion in Ramayana (4)

SUDOKU

3			8	5		7		
2		8						
			3		2		9	
		2						4
	6		2		4		3	
9						6		
	5		6		8			
						8		1
		9		1	7			6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5810 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

T	U	R	N	O	V	E	R		A	S	H	A	R	P
A		O		B		X		D		I		N		U
C	L	A	S	S	I	C		R	A	N	K	E	S	T
O		S		E		O		I		A		W		A
M	A	T	E	R		M	A	N	D	I	B	L	E	S
A		S		V		M		K				E		I
			C	A	S	U	A	L	T	Y	W	A	R	D
O		D		N		N		I		A		F		E
F	R	E	E	T	H	I	N	K	E	R	S			
F		C				C		E		D		S		C
C	H	I	P	O	L	A	T	A		O	D	O	U	R
O		M		P		T		F		F		L		U
L	E	A	D	O	R	E		I	T	A	L	I	A	N
O		T		L		D		S		L		D		C
R	E	E	L	E	D		S	H	R	E	W	I	S	H

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	4	9	1	8	5	3	6	2
3	2	8	4	6	7	9	1	5
1	6	5	3	9	2	8	4	7
6	7	2	8	3	9	1	5	4
9	1	4	5	2	6	7	3	8
5	8	3	7	4	1	2	9	6
8	3	6	2	1	4	5	7	9
2	9	7	6	5	3	4	8	1
4	5	1	9	7	8	6	2	3

FAITH

Three births as demons

Anger can only lead to self destruction. Even great sages and saints have been intemperate. Our Bhagavatha Purana says that as with God's many avatars, His presence on earth as Varaha also teaches us many lessons. One of these is the importance of conquering anger, which goes against the grain of leading a virtuous life, said Dhamal Ramakrishnan in a discourse. Brahma's four sons, Sanaka, Sananthana, Sanadhana and Sanath Kumara were expected to help in creation. However, their minds were focused only on God and on attaining moksha; to this end they reached Vaikunta, with the intention of being in His presence. At the portal, the two dwarapalakas, Jaya and Vijaya, prevented them from entering. Incensed at what they perceived as high-handedness, the four brothers cursed them to be born on earth.

After hearing both sides, Vishnu informed the dwarapalakas that they should have permitted the siblings to enter; further, having been the reason for making them curse, the two gatekeepers had only two choices: they could be born a hundred times as His devotees and lead a devout life. Or, they could opt for three births as demons and Vishnu Himself would take avatar to vanquish them in combat. The two dwarapalakas immediately choose to be born as asuras, since they were eager to return to Vaikunta at the earliest. As per Vishnu's dispensation, the two dwarapalakas were born with negative qualities such as krodha, kama and lobha. Signifying the first, we know them as Hranyakasipu and Hrianyaksha; in the second as Ravana and Kumbhakarna and in the final one as Sisupala and Dantavakra.

TOKYO

Three killed, one injured in shooting incident in Japan

Three people were killed and one person was injured after a shooting, stabbing incident in Nakano, Japan on Thursday, with the perpetrator barricading himself inside a building. Among the people killed, two were police officers. Crimes involving guns are extremely rare in Japan, where gun ownership is tightly regulated. REUTERS

PARIS

Armenians hacked with Pegasus spyware during war, says NGO

At least a dozen Armenian journalists, NGO workers and officials had their phones hacked with the notorious Pegasus spyware while the country fought with Azerbaijan, a rights group said on Thursday. Access Now said their report was the first to document evidence of spyware being used in an international conflict. AFP

WASHINGTON

Militia leader gets 18 years in prison over U.S. Capitol attack

REUTERS

Oath Keepers extremist group founder Stewart Rhodes, 58, was sentenced on Thursday to 18 years in prison for orchestrating a weekslong plot that culminated in his followers attacking the U.S. Capitol in a bid to keep President Joe Biden out of the White House after winning the 2020 election. AP

DUBAI

Iran says it has successfully tested long-range ballistic missile

AFP

Iran successfully tested a 2,000-km-range ballistic missile on Thursday, state media said. Iran, which has one of the biggest missile programmes in West Asia, says its missiles are capable of reaching Israel and U.S. bases. Despite opposition, Tehran said it would further develop its "defensive" missile programme. REUTERS

Chinese hackers attacking infrastructure, warns U.S.

Microsoft says the attack, targeting Guam and elsewhere, was carried out by a China-sponsored actor dubbed 'Volt Typhoon'; Beijing calls the accusation 'a collective disinformation campaign'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

State-sponsored Chinese hackers have infiltrated critical U.S. infrastructure networks, Washington, its Western allies and Microsoft said on Wednesday while warning that similar espionage attacks could be occurring globally.

Microsoft highlighted Guam, a U.S. territory in the Pacific Ocean with a vital military outpost, as one of the targets, but said "malicious" activity had also been detected elsewhere in the U.S.

The stealthy attack – carried out by a China-sponsored actor dubbed 'Volt Typhoon' since mid-2021 – enabled long-term espionage and was likely aimed at hampering the U.S. if there was conflict in the region, it said.

"Microsoft assesses with moderate confidence that this Volt Typhoon campaign is pursuing development of capabilities that could disrupt critical communications infrastructure between the United States and Asia region during future crises," the statement said. "In this campaign, the affected organisations span the communications, manufacturing, utility, transportation, construction, maritime, government, information technology, and education sectors." Microsoft's statement coincided with an advisory released by U.S., Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and U.K. authorities warning that the hacking was likely occurring globally. "This activity affects networks across U.S. critical infrastructure sectors, and the authoring agencies believe the actor could apply the same techniques against these and other sectors worldwide," they said.

China denied the allegations, describing the Microsoft report as "extremely unprofessional" and "scissors-and-paste work".

Stealth attack: Microsoft highlighted Guam, a U.S. territory in the Pacific Ocean with a vital military outpost, as one of the targets. AP

'Hacker empire'

"It is clear that this is a collective disinformation campaign of the Five Eyes coalition countries, initiated by the U.S. for its geopolitical purposes," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said, referring to the security alliance of the U.S. and its Western allies that wrote the report. "The participation of certain companies shows that the U.S. is expanding new channels for disseminating disinformation," she said. "But no change in tactics can alter the fact that the U.S. is a hacker empire."

The U.S. and its allies said the activities involved "living off the land" tactics, which take advantage of built-in network tools to blend in with normal Windows systems.

Moscow to shut Swedish consulate, bar diplomats

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Moscow said on Thursday it was expelling five Swedish diplomats and closing Russia's general consulate in Gothenburg and Sweden's diplomatic mission in Saint Petersburg.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that the Swedish Ambassador Malena Mard had been summoned and informed of Moscow's retaliatory measures over her country's "confrontational course".

The move came after Sweden said in late April it was expelling five Russian diplomats. Russia said it was an "openly hostile move", accusing authorities in the northern European nation of holding a "Russophobic campaign".

Wagner says it is handing Bakhmut to Russian Army

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The head of Russia's Wagner mercenary group said on Thursday his troops had started transferring their positions in the flashpoint eastern Ukraine city of Bakhmut to the Russian military.

Japan said it had scrambled fighter jets after detecting Russian "intelligence gathering" planes off its coastline, while Moscow announced China's special envoy would discuss Ukraine with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday.

In Bakhmut, Wagner said it began pulling out its fighters after claiming to have fully captured the destroyed city at the weekend.

Ukraine, which denies that Bakhmut has fallen to Russia, insisted it still controlled a "micro district" of the ruined city and said it was still advancing on the flanks.

Yevgeny Prigozhin

Large-scale assault

The battle for Bakhmut has raged for nearly a year, levelling the city and decimating waves of Wagner recruits who have led Russia's assault on the industrial hub.

"We are withdrawing units from Bakhmut today. We are handing over positions to the military, ammunition and everything," Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin said in a video.

Earlier this week, he conceded that around 10,000 prisoners he had recruited to fight in Ukraine had been killed on the battlefield.

The 61-year-old Kremlin ally toured Russian prisons last year to persuade inmates to fight with Wagner in exchange for a promised amnesty on their return – should they survive.

Wagner's announcement came days after Moscow's military said it had deployed jets and artillery on Russian soil against a "sabotage" group that crossed from Ukraine.

U.S. visa policy does not bother Bangladesh: Minister

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

'The Sheikh Hasina government is committed to holding transparent election,' says Shahriar Alam

The new policy of the U.S. government on denying visa to specific individuals who are seen to be "undermining Bangladesh elections" will not "bother" Dhaka, Deputy Foreign Minister Shahriar Alam said on Wednesday.

His response came soon after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that individuals from a range of important sections of the Bangladesh government will be denied U.S. visa if they are found to be indulging in activities that may undermine the country's electoral process.

In remarks quoted by *Daily Star* newspaper, Mr. Alam said the Sheikh Hasina government is "committed" to holding transparent election and that the latest American measure "does not bother" the government of Bangladesh. The Deputy Minister said the Awami League government will give a more detailed response after studying the announcement.

The U.S. announcement said the policy will cover "current and former Bangladeshi officials, members of pro-government and Opposition political parties, and members of law enforcement, the judiciary, and security services".

The U.S. government informed the Government of Bangladesh about the announcement on May 3.

The announcement has added to the diplomatic atmospherics over the coming election in Bangladesh that has been drawing attention from the western capitals.

The U.S. Ambassador to Dhaka Peter Haas has been in the news for repeatedly seeking "free and fair and transparent" election in Bangladesh.

South Carolina renews abortion ban

Associated Press
COLUMBIA

South Carolina's Governor signed a Bill on Thursday banning most abortions around six weeks of pregnancy, setting up an anticipated legal challenge from providers.

The law, which goes into effect immediately, restores the ban South Carolina had in place when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last year. The move further curtails access across the region with North Carolina set to ban most abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy beginning July 1.

Tina Turner: Queen of Rock 'n' Roll who wrote rule book for women in the genre

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Tina Turner, the growling songstress whose explosive stage presence electrified fans the world over, left an indelible mark on 20th-century rock with five decades of hits – first with husband Ike Turner, but most memorably as a wildly successful solo act.

The Black eight-time Grammy winner lit up the stage from the 1960s onwards – and won a new generation of fans in a stunning comeback after escaping her violent marriage, making her popular music's ultimate survivor.

Abandoned by her parents, Turner emerged from Tennessee's cotton fields to become the "Queen of Rock and Roll" who, according to music lore, taught Mick Jagger how to dance.

The singer of "The Best" died in Switzerland at 83, where she lived her final years with husband Erwin Bach, a former record label executive.

Tina Turner

As a Black woman who embraced rock over 1950s doo-wop and 1960s Motown, Turner was a double outsider. But she wrote the rule book for women in the genre.

Turner sold more than 100 million records worldwide, according to *Billboard*, and paved the way for performers like Janet Jackson, Madonna and Beyonce.

"Tina Turner was raw. She was powerful. She was unstoppable," former U.S. President Barack Obama wrote.

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A LOT
SMARTER.

COMING SOON

FRONTLINE
INDIA'S NATIONAL MAGAZINE

INBRIEF

TVS Supply Chain's Dinesh assumes office as CII President

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Executive Vice-Chairman R. Dinesh assumed office as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2023-24 while ITC MD Sanjiv Puri was named President-designate. Mr. Dinesh is a fourth-generation TVS family member. He has been engaged with the CII for many years at the State, regional and national levels. He succeeds Bajaj Finserv Ltd. CMD Sanjiv Bajaj, CII said in a statement on Thursday.

Madras HC restrains CCI over Minda bid to raise Pricol stake

The Madras High Court passed an interim order restraining Competition Commission of India from taking the file or adjudicating Minda Corporation's application for acquiring a 24.5% stake in auto-components maker Pricol. Pricol informed the stock exchange it had filed a petition against the CCI and Minda, praying for a writ of prohibition/declaration challenging the validity of the application of Minda to the CCI for investing in up to 24.5% of Pricol's share capital.

Drugmaker Granules India says hit by IT security incident

Granules India has been hit by an information-security incident following which the drugmaker said it isolated the impacted IT assets. The matter is being investigated with "utmost priority and appropriate containment and remediation actions are being taken in a controlled manner to address the incident," the company said in a regulatory filing on Thursday. The company's shares closed 2.10% lower at ₹273.05 each on the BSE.

'Govt. trying to link TCS on overseas spends to local TDS'

CEA says move's aim is to help smoothen cash flows; Nageswaran explains the 20% tax collection at source on international card spends meant as deterrent targeting people who are evading taxes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tax tweak

Government eyeing ways to link TCS on overseas spends to TDS deductions to minimise cash flow impact on taxpayers

- Exemption of up to ₹7 lakh/year will mean 'bulk of the transactions' will not be covered by levy: CEA
- CEA says 20% levy will have a deterrent effect on people who are evading taxes through this mechanism
- Pass-through of TCS into TDS will safeguard ordinary taxpayers

The Centre is making attempts to link the tax collection at source (TCS) payments made by individuals to the taxes deducted from their income sources, so that the new 20% TCS for certain international spends do not affect cash flows, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran indicated on Thursday.

Responding to concerns about the 20% TCS levy on international credit card spends to be introduced from July 1, the CEA said that exempting transactions on debit and credit cards up to ₹7 lakh a year would mean "bulk of the transactions made by most of us will not be covered by the levy. "There are also attempts to link your TCS to the TDS deductions made, so if there are TCS payments made by you, it should reflect in a lower TDS as a method to make sure that you are not affected as far as cash flow is concerned. That will also provide a huge amount of relief for people who are concerned about this annoyance or irritation of seeing a TCS apart from your TDS," Mr. Nageswaran said at a CII meeting.

While the pass-through of TCS into TDS would safeguard ordinary taxpayers, the CEA emphasised the 20% levy would have a deterrent effect on a large number of people who are evading taxes of "substantial volumes" through this mechanism.

DGCA seeks Go First's revival plan in 30 days

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The DGCA has asked Go First to submit a "comprehensive" revival plan within 30 days after the regulator was dissatisfied with the airline's response to its showcause notice merely professing interest in restart of operations.

"The DGCA has advised the airline on 24.05.2023 to submit, within a period of 30 days, a comprehensive restructuring/revival plan for a sustainable revival of operations," the regulator said in a statement.

The airline has been asked to furnish details of availability of operational aircraft, pilots and other personnel required, maintenance arrangements, as well as funding being raised and arrangements with lessors and vendors.

Rishad Premji took 50% pay cut in FY23

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rishad Premji

Wipro executive chairman Rishad Premji has taken a 50% pay cut in fiscal 2022-23, as per a regulatory filing made by the Bengaluru-based technology services firm on Thursday.

In the last fiscal, Mr. Premji earned a total annual compensation of $9,51,353, which was almost 50% less than his previous year's earnings of $18,19,022, indicating a substantial pay cut of about $8,67,669.

Wipro also said Mr. Premji's ongoing five-year term as Executive Chairman would conclude on July 30, 2024.

The company said its business and financial performance would continue to be affected by global economic conditions.

For retirees, leave encashment now tax-free till ₹25 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government has notified an increase in the tax exemption limit for leave encashment benefits received by salaried employees at the time of retirement from ₹3 lakh to ₹25 lakh, as promised in the Union Budget.

The changed tax treatment, which will be effective from April 1, 2023, could benefit 50% of personal income tax payers, who are salaried workers, as per estimates.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had noted during her Budget 2023-24 speech the limit of ₹3 lakh for tax exemption on leave encashment on retirement of non-government salaried employees was last fixed in 2002, when the highest basic pay in the government was ₹30,000 a month. "In line with the increase in government salaries, I am proposing to increase this limit to ₹25 lakh," she said.

Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra had told *The Hindu* this tax exemption increase would effectively translate into potential savings of ₹7 lakh in taxes that would have otherwise been payable.

"That is almost ₹20,000 of savings a year over a 33-year working life," he had pointed out. Employees who switch to the new exemption-free income tax regime in the year of their retirement would also benefit, he had said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,873	0.16
US Dollar	82.72	-0.05
Gold	60,250	-0.58
Brent oil	75.45	-2.39

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2537.45	61.85
Adani Ports	724.50	6.25
Apollo Hosp	4568.15	31.70
Asian Paints	3123.55	22.05
Axis Bank	921.05	3.35
Bajaj Auto	4644.00	126.40
Bajaj Finserv	1427.35	0.90
Bajaj Finance	6841.15	55.20
Bharti Airtel	822.70	21.30
BPCL	363.30	0.00
Britannia Ind	4563.30	43.50
Cipla	945.45	7.45
Coal India	240.05	-0.95
Divis Lab	3435.65	52.50
Dr Reddys Lab	4503.95	-15.30
Eicher Motors	3651.50	40.60
Grasim Ind	1701.35	1.00
HCL Tech	1116.00	4.05
HDFC	2647.40	-24.35
HDFC Bank	1609.60	-6.20
HDFC Life	572.05	6.05
Hero MotoCorp	2732.80	-5.90
Hindalco	404.25	-2.65
Hind Unilever	2597.25	-17.70
ICICI Bank	939.85	-0.80
IndusInd Bank	1263.40	-8.35
Infosys	1304.35	5.70
ITC	441.15	7.65
JSW Steel	696.65	0.65
Kotak Bank	1929.95	19.60
L&T	2204.70	19.55
M&M	1277.80	2.10
Maruti Suzuki	9281.85	11.10
NestleIndia	21474.90	94.30
NTPC	174.50	-0.45
ONGC	166.00	-0.25
PowerGrid Corp	237.95	2.15
Reliance Ind	2439.95	-0.30
SBI Life	1177.35	2.00
State Bank	581.25	-1.45
Sun Pharma	945.00	-7.15
TataConsumerProduct	780.30	9.15
Tata Motors	514.85	-5.35
Tata Steel	104.85	-0.35
TCS	3293.50	-9.85
Tech Mahindra	1098.10	-0.65
Titan	2707.95	0.70
UltraTech Cement	7621.75	-32.05
UPL	675.80	-6.45
Wipro	394.10	-5.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 25

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.46	82.78
Euro	88.67	89.01
British Pound	102.05	102.45
Japanese Yen (100)	59.54	59.78
Chinese Yuan	11.70	11.74
Swiss Franc	91.31	91.67
Singapore Dollar	61.16	61.40
Canadian Dollar	60.82	61.08
Malaysian Ringitt	17.96	18.04
Australian Dollar	54.15	54.36

Source:Indian Bank

THE HINDU GROUP

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FEET FIRMLY PLANTED

Not Bumrah's replacement, just doing my job, says Madhwal

Seamer Akash Madhwal has emerged as MI's interim answer to spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's absence. "It's not like I have taken Bumrah *bhai*'s spot. I am just trying to perform to the fullest. I have a slightly slinging action, so I was pitching the ball on hard lengths," Madhwal said after Wednesday's win over Lucknow Super Giants.

ENJOYING THE CHALLENGE

A professional needs to take everything in his stride: Naveen

LSG pacer Naveen-ul-Haq, who drowned out constant "Kohli, Kohli" chants from the crowd with a career-best four for 38 against MI on Wednesday, said he relished the challenge despite the defeat. "I like the crowd chanting his (Kohli's) or any other player's name. As a professional, you have to take these in your stride," he said.

DEFINITELY YES

Dwayne Bravo '100%' sure Dhoni will return to CSK next year

Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Dwayne Bravo said he is "100%" sure that M.S. Dhoni will make a return as a player in IPL's 2024 edition. "100%. Especially, with the Impact Player rule. It will keep prolonging his career... he has the ability to keep his cool when the team is under pressure," said Bravo while answering fans.

DENIAL

Not cancelling ECB contract to play in MLC: Jason Roy

England batter Jason Roy issued a statement denying media reports claiming that he was considering "cancelling" his contract with the ECB to play in Major League Cricket (MLC) in the USA. However, he confirmed playing for Los Angeles Knight Riders in the United States' T20 tournament but did have a discussion with ECB.

Can Gujarat Titans halt Mumbai Indians' upsurge?

MI has defied adversity and ridden a collective effort to stand on the threshold of a seventh final; GT's batting line-up needs to complement its lethal bowling attack

IPL-16

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

There is a reason why Mumbai Indians (MI) is the most successful Indian Premier League franchise – it thrives even when barely allowed to live.

This season, the record five-time champion has missed the services of Jasprit Bumrah, seen an undercooked Jofra Archer go in and out of the XI and lost sleep over the meagre batting returns of Suryakumar Yadav and Rohit Sharma. Of the first seven matches, it had lost four.

Yet, at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Friday, MI will play for a spot in another IPL final – its seventh in 16 editions – when it meets Gujarat Titans (GT) in Qualifier 2.

The side has piggybacked on the return to form of Suryakumar, the exploits of the unheralded, like pacer Akash Madhwal and batter Nehal Wadhera, and the intelligence of the shrewd old warhorse in leggie Piyush Chawla.

Each had a role to play in the spectacular 81-run thrashing of Lucknow Super Giants in the Eliminator on Wednesday, with Madhwal the standout performer, finishing with breathtaking figures of 3.3-0-5-5.

If basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's words "Your mind is what makes everything else work" are anything to go by, MI may even be a slight favourite against defending champion GT, for the latter appears to have sunk a bit after losing Qualifier 1 to Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by 15 runs.

Against CSK, GT's fortunes, despite possessing a well-rounded outfit, seemed to singularly depend on the magical wilow of Shubman Gill. The deep batting line-up needs to come alive in order to complement what is a lethal bowling attack led by Mohammed Shami and Rashid Khan.

MAKING THEIR PRESENCE FELT

BATTING	GT	MI	BOWLING	GT	MI
Most runs	Miller (87, 2 inns)	Suryakumar (126, 2 inns)	Most wickets	Rashid (6, 2 inns)	Chawla (4, 2 inns)
Highest	Rashid (79 n.o.)	Suryakumar (103 n.o.)	Best bowling	Rashid (4/30)	Madhwal (3/31)

Today's match

QUALIFIER 2

GT vs. MI

Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 3

GT 1 | MI 2

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Another aspect worth keeping an eye on is GT's approach to batting.

Despite the presence of a few explosive hitters, Hardik Pandya & Co., believe in playing the percentages better.

Will this work against MI's intuitive and dashing style of cricket? Friday will tell.

Smiling assassin: Gill has put many an attack to the sword and would want to continue that form in Qualifier 2 against Rohit's men. VIJAY SONEJI

Madhwal heals Mumbai Indians' death-overs bowling woes

Madhwal... delivering on the big stage. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Lalith Kalidas
CHENNAI

Mumbai Indians' stunning come-from-behind streak of results has relaunched it into familiar territory.

Following its 81-run annihilation of Lucknow Super Giants in the Eliminator, Rohit Sharma's side is within striking distance of a seventh IPL final.

While its batting firepower overcame the bowling shortcomings in the second half of the league, the five-time champion has unearthed another talent: seamer Akash Madhwal.

The new colt from Mumbai's classic stable, Madhwal, romped to the top of the bowling charts with a career-best five for five against LSG here on Wednesday.

On an uncharacteristic Chepauk surface that offered extra bounce, Madhwal's skiddy lengths and seam movement confounded the batters, helping the 29-year-old equal Anil Kumble's 14-year record for the best IPL bowling figures (five for five) by an Indian.

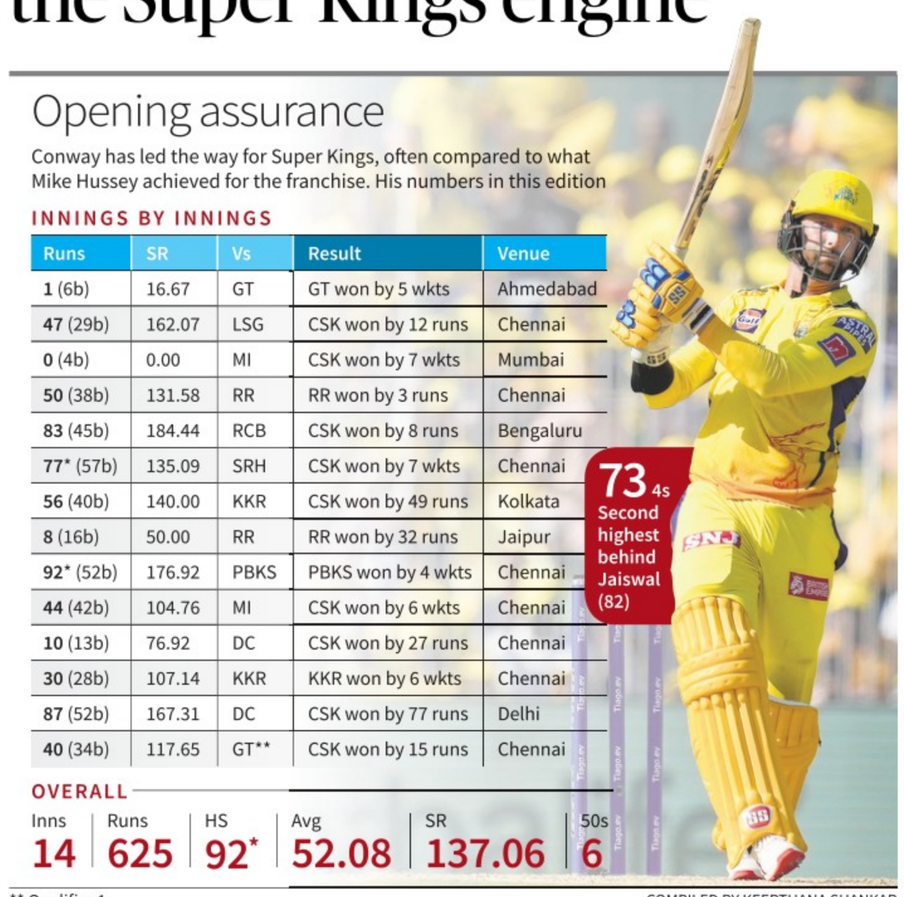
Madhwal has also healed Mumbai's lingering death-overs bowling woes in Jasprit Bumrah's absence, boasting the best economy rate (7.52) between overs 17 and 20 this season (minimum 50 deliveries).

Madhwal's graduation from tennis-ball cricket in 2018-19 to Uttarakhand's limited-overs captain in the 2022-23 season had coincided with IPL net-bowling stints, first with Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2019.

Late into the 2022 IPL season, MI's far-sighted management zeroed in on Madhwal as a replacement signing, for an injured Suryakumar Yadav, at his base price of ₹20 lakh.

With 13 wickets from seven matches, Madhwal has reaffirmed the might of MI's scouting secret sauce.

How Conway has powered the Super Kings engine



Opening assurance

Conway has led the way for Super Kings, often compared to what Mike Hussey achieved for the franchise. His numbers in this edition

INNINGS BY INNINGS

Runs	SR	Vs	Result	Venue
1 (6b)	16.67	GT	GT won by 5 wkts	Ahmedabad
47 (29b)	162.07	LSG	CSK won by 12 runs	Chennai
0 (4b)	0.00	MI	CSK won by 7 wkts	Mumbai
50 (38b)	131.58	RR	RR won by 3 runs	Chennai
83 (45b)	184.44	RCB	CSK won by 8 runs	Bengaluru
77* (57b)	135.09	SRH	CSK won by 7 wkts	Chennai
56 (40b)	140.00	KKR	CSK won by 49 runs	Kolkata
8 (16b)	50.00	RR	RR won by 32 runs	Jaipur
92* (52b)	176.92	PBKS	PBKS won by 4 wkts	Chennai
44 (42b)	104.76	MI	CSK won by 6 wkts	Chennai
10 (13b)	76.92	DC	CSK won by 27 runs	Chennai
30 (28b)	107.14	KKR	KKR won by 6 wkts	Chennai
87 (52b)	167.31	DC	CSK won by 77 runs	Delhi
40 (34b)	117.65	GT**	CSK won by 15 runs	Chennai

73 4s — Second highest behind Jaiswal (82)

OVERALL

Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	50s
14	625	92*	52.08	137.06	6

** Qualifier 1

COMPILED BY KEERTHANA SHANKAR

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

It has been a remarkable turnaround for Chennai Super Kings this year as it became the first team to reach the final after finishing ninth in 2022. And one of the key architects of Super Kings' revival has been opener Devon Conway who leads the side's run charts with 625.

Last year, when Super Kings could not buy back Faf du Plessis at the mega auction, there were concerns about who would fill his big shoes.

The South African had excelled as an opener and played vital roles in the 2018 and 2021 title-winning campaigns.

Once Super Kings lost du Plessis in the bidding war, they quickly signed Conway for just ₹1 crore. The Kiwi played seven games last year and showed glimpses of his potential. This season, he has slipped into du Plessis' role with aplomb.

"He reads the game well. When we are in the dugout and think we need a boundary, he finds one. He is versatile and a difficult batter to bowl dot balls to, which makes it a strength," said CSK's bowling consultant Eric Simons.

Apart from being comfortable against pace, the southpaw has shown great technique in tackling the spinners, something most overseas batters struggle with.

It is a vital skill considering the team plays its home matches at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on pitches that assist the tweakers.

Be it using his feet, going on the backfoot or hitting the ball back over the bowler, Conway has found runs and boundaries by targeting unconventional areas.

"His ability to play square of the wicket is part of his strength, but when you pitch it up, he goes back over your head. He can manipulate the field. When given a ball in an area, he can score there, whether using the pace or going straight back down the ground," Simons added.

Conway has struck a good rapport with Ruturaj on and off the field and that has worked wonders for the Men in Yellow. The duo has scored 775 runs together, only second behind du Plessis and Virat Kohli.

'Different individuals have stepped up in the two-year cycle'

Richly deserved: Ashwin feels that hard work has earned India another opportunity to win the title. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

WTC FINAL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Captain Rohit Sharma feels all individuals showed a lot of character and stepped up when needed to take India to the World Test Championship final for the second consecutive time, especially after losing in the first edition in 2021.

"It's a cycle of two years and we play a lot of Test matches during that period. Lot(s) of players played in that cycle," said Rohit. "Different individuals have stepped up, putting the performances that we were looking for from the individual."

Off-spinner R. Ashwin said it is "no mean feat" to qualify for successive WTC finals. "We are qualifying for the second time on the trot.

"We would have loved to win the series in India 3-1 or 3-0 but Australia played some good cricket. We weren't able to do that. However, for the consistent cricket we have played, we've been rewarded with this final."

The mad rush

Tickets please! Fans standing in serpentine queues outside the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday to collect physical copies of tickets bought online. VIJAY SONEJI

THE GAME CHANGER QUIZ

1. Which country has won the maximum football World Cups?
2. Who has won the most number of Wimbledon men's singles titles?
3. The swimmer with the most Olympic gold medals is _____, who won a total of 23 gold medals between 2004 and 2016.

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INBRIEF

Brighton ends City's winning run to secure top-six finish

Brighton ended Manchester City's 12-game winning run in the Premier League as a 1-1 draw on Wednesday secured the Seagulls a place in next season's Europa League. Brighton, which had already secured European football next season for the first time in the club's history, is now certain to finish sixth.

The result: Brighton 1 (Enciso 38) drew with Manchester City 1 (Foden 25).

Rodrygo raises fist in Vinicius tribute as Madrid beats Rayo

Rodrygo struck a late winner for Real Madrid in a 2-1 LaLiga victory over Rayo Vallecano on Wednesday and raised his fist into the air in a nod to team-mate Vinicius Junior, who received racist abuse against Valencia on Sunday.

The results: Elche 1 (Morente 25) drew with Sevilla 1 (Lamela 10); Villarreal 2 (Jackson 20, 45+2) bt Cadiz 0; Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 31, Rodrygo 89) bt Rayo Vallecano 1 (De Tomas 84); Real Betis 0 lost to Getafe 1 (Alderete 68); Espanyol 3 (Montes 64, Joselu 76-pen, Vinicius 79) drew with Atletico Madrid 3 (Saul 21, Griezmann 44, Carrasco 46).

Inter Milan defeats Fiorentina to retain the Italian Cup

Lautaro Martinez scored twice as Inter Milan, which has made the final of the Champions League, came from behind to beat Fiorentina 2-1 and retain the Italian Cup in Rome on Wednesday. Nicolas Gonzalez gave Fiorentina an early lead, but Martinez drilled Inter level and then volleyed in the winner before half-time.

The result (final):
Fiorentina 1 (Gonzalez 3) lost to Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 29, 37).

Carlsen, Anand for inaugural Global Chess League

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, newly-crowned World champion Ding Liren, five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand and former women's World champion Hou Yifan are among the participants at the inaugural Global Chess League, a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and FIDE. It will be held in Dubai from June 21 to July 2. Six teams will take part in the tournament, to be played in rapid time control. Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Leinier Domínguez, Alexander Grischuk, Daniil Dubov, Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli, Kateryna Lagno, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Tan Zhongyi and Nana Dzagnidze will also compete, among others.

Indian women go down fighting to Australia-A

The Indian women's hockey team put up a fighting show against Australia-A before going down 2-3 here on Thursday. Salima Tete (40th minute) and Sangita Kumari (54th) scored a goal each for India after Alice Arnott (18th) and Ruby Harris (20th and 35th) had put the host ahead. This was part of its final two games of the tour Down Under Under in the build-up to the Asian Games in September. It takes on Australia A here again on Saturday. India had earlier lost a three-match series against Australia 0-2.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m.
BWF: Malaysia Masters: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 a.m. & 12.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.15 a.m. (Saturday)

Djokovic seeded to meet World No. 1 Alcaraz in semis

Reigning champion Swiatek, who is bidding to become the first back-to-back women's winner at the French Open in 16 years, is coming off a thigh injury which forced her to retire in Rome

ROLAND-GARROS

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Novak Djokovic could face World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz in the semifinals of the French Open after both were placed in the same half of the draw on Thursday.

Djokovic is chasing a record 23rd men's Grand Slam title in the absence of the injured Rafael Nadal, who will miss the tournament at Roland-Garros for the first time since his 2005 title-winning debut.

The third-seeded Djokovic, Roland Garros champion in 2016 and 2021, meets 114th-ranked Aleksandar Kovacevic of the US in the first round in Paris – the first French Open since 1998 without Nadal or the now retired Roger Federer.

The 24-year-old Kovacevic is making his Grand Slam main draw debut.

US Open champion Alcaraz and Medvedev both start their campaigns against a qualifier or lucky loser. Alcaraz is also on track to play Stefanos Tsitsipas in the quarterfinals.

Reigning women's champion Iga Swiatek begins her title defence against Spain's Cristina Bucsa. The top-ranked Swiatek, bidding to become the first back-to-back women's champion at the French Open in 16 years, is coming off a thigh injury which forced her to retire in Rome.

She is seeded to meet 2022 runner-up Coco Gauff in the quarterfinals and could face Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, last week's Italian Open winner, in the last four.

Tough battle: Djokovic, bothered by a recurrence of a right elbow injury, failed to go beyond the last eight at any of the three events he played on clay this spring and lost his No. 1 spot to Alcaraz. AFP

The seedings (top-10): Men: 1. Alcaraz; 2. Medvedev; 3. Djokovic; 4. Casper Ruud; 5. Stefanos Tsitsipas; 6. Holger Rune; 7. Andrey Rublev; 8. Jannik Sinner; 9. Taylor Fritz; 10. Félix Auger-Aliassime.

Women: 1. Iga Swiatek; 2. Aryna Sabalenka; 3. Jessica Pegula; 4. Elena Rybakina; 5. Caroline Garcia; 6. Coco Gauff; 7. Ons Jabeur; 8. Maria Sakkari; 9. Daria Kasatkina; 10. Petra Kvitova.

Asia Cup impasse resolution likely on Sunday

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Asia Cup impasse is likely to be resolved on Sunday, when the chiefs of major continental cricket Boards meet up in Ahmedabad, on the sidelines of the Indian Premier League final.

"The presidents of the Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka Cricket Boards will grace the Tata IPL 2023 final to be held on May 28 at the Narendra Modi Stadium," Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary and Asian Cricket Council president Jay Shah said on Thursday.

"We will hold discussions with them for outlining the future course of action in relation to Asia Cup 2023," he said. While Shah did not comment on the conspicuous absence of Pakistan Cricket Board chief Najam Sethi in Ahmedabad, *The Hindu* understands that he and PCB representatives will join via "videoconferencing" due to "logistical issues" involving travel clearances.

The PCB has been awarded Asia Cup hosting rights. The tournament's fate has been uncertain ever since Shah stated last year "India cannot travel to Pakistan" and vice-versa.

While the PCB has since assured the International Cricket Council that it would adhere to the Members Participation Agreement and travel to India for the World Cup in October-November, the Asia Cup conundrum is yet to be resolved.

The BCCI had proposed a neutral venue for the tournament, with Sri Lanka being preferred over the United Arab Emirates, the PCB has reluctantly offered a hybrid model, with Pakistan's league games – except those versus India – to be played in India and the remaining fixtures in the UAE.

With less than three months remaining for the marquee event, likely to be played in the three-week window starting August 20, Sunday's meeting is likely to finalise the compromise formula.

Sindhu, Prannoy, Srikanth in last eight; Lakshya out

MALAYSIA MASTERS

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

P.V. Sindhu, H.S. Prannoy and K. Srikanth booked their places in the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament, while Lakshya Sen bowed out here on Thursday.

While double Olympic medallist and sixth seed Sindhu disposed of Aya Ohori of Japan in straight games, Prannoy had to dig deep to get the better of Shi Feng Li of China. Later, Srikanth prevailed over India Open champion and eighth seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.

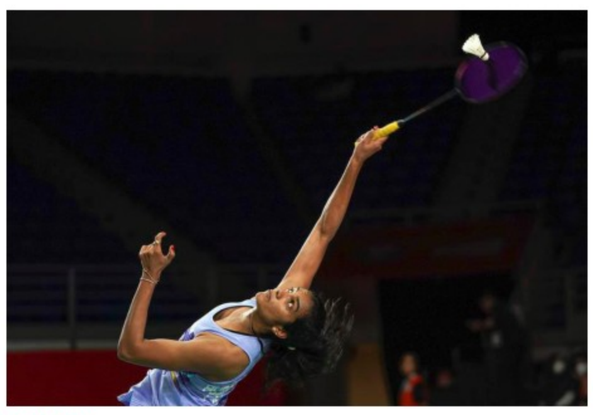
Taking the court first, World No. 13 Sindhu extended her domination over Ohori, ranked 28th, taking just 40 minutes to beat the Japanese 21-16, 21-11 in the round of 16.

It was her 13th win over the Japanese in as many meetings. Sindhu will face China's Yi Man Zhang in the quarterfinals.

World No. 9 Prannoy then overcame a game deficit to beat World No. 11 and reigning All England champion Li 13-21, 21-16, 21-11 in one hour and 10 minutes to book his berth. Prannoy will next meet Japan's Kenta Nishimoto.

Coming into the match with a 0-3 head-to-head record, Srikanth notched up a 21-19, 21-19 win over Vitidsarn. The 2021 World Championships silver medallist will meet Indonesian qualifier Christian Adinata.

Lakshya, however, lost to Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong 14-21, 19-21.



Ruthless: Sindhu made it 13-0 against Aya Ohori at the Malaysia Masters in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. AP

The results: Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Shi Feng Li (Chn) 13-21, 21-16, 21-11; K. Srikanth bt Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) 21-19, 21-19; Angus Ng Ka Long (HK) bt Lakshya Sen 21-14, 21-19. **Women:** P.V. Sindhu bt Aya Ohori (Jpn) 21-16, 21-11.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Akaash crowned champion

Akaash Ashok Kumar defeated Parvez Ahmed by 46 pins (436-390) in the final to emerge as the Karnataka State ranking tenpin bowling tournament champion at Amoeba Bowling Center here.

Special prizes: **Highest average in 6 game block (Men):** Akaash Ashok Kumar (200.33); **Highest average in 18 game block (Men):** Parvez Ahmed (188.00); **Highest Average in 6 game block (Women):** J. Preemal (167.50); **Highest ranked woman bowler:** J. Preemal (16th).

Top two: Akaash, left, and Parvez with their reward.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sunil and Rithwik star in EISB's win

Sunil (five for 25 and 31) and Rithwik Kulasekar (104) helped EISB defeat Kreeda Kshetra in the Tiger Cup under-14 tournament at Altiore Sports Green Park here.

The scores: Kreeda Kshetra 162 in 29.3 overs (Gokul Sai 26, Khanishk 25, Suvik 5/25, Sanchit Talanki 3/22) lost to EISB 163/1 in 29.2 overs (Rithwik Kulasekar 104, Suvik 31, Sidharth 25).

CCE 137 in 27.5 overs (Mohammed Umair 41) lost to DPS (South) 138/1 in 26 overs (Syaamantak 48, Rachit Das 44, Ryan Tomar 33).

Bengaluru Marathon on Oct. 8

The 10th edition of the Bengaluru Marathon will be held here on October 8.

Wipro Limited announced its partnership with NEB Sports as the title sponsor of the marathon for the next three years.

There will be three categories – full marathon (42.195 km), half marathon (21.1 km) and the 5K Hope Run – certified by AIMS (Association of International Marathons).

Nagaraj Adiga, Race Director said, "The City Run, as we like to call it, evokes a sense of pride and belonging and encourages people to participate in large numbers."

"Being an athlete, I understand the need to remain fit and healthy to stay competitive," Arjuna awardee and Wipro Bengaluru Marathon brand ambassador Reeth Abraham said.

Sathiyan, Sharath and Manika among the retained players

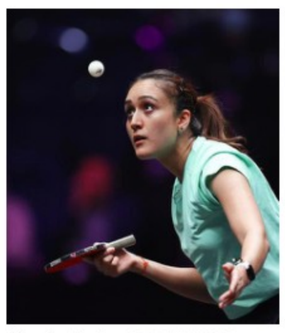
UTT

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

A. Sharath Kamal and G. Sathiyan are among the four players retained by their respective franchises ahead of the fourth season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) league.

Defending champion Chennai Lions has retained 10-time National champion Sharath, while Season 3 finalist Dabang Delhi TTC decided to continue with Sathiyan at the fore.

Manika Batra has been retained by Bengaluru Smashers with the retention transfer originating from her former franchise, while Manav Thakkar will continue at U Mumba TT.



Manika Batra. GETTY IMAGES

The franchise-based league is promoted by Niraj Bajaj and Vita Dani under the auspices of TTFI.

The upcoming season will feature six teams – Bengaluru Smashers, Chennai Lions, Dabang Delhi TTC, Goa Challengers, Puneri Paltan Table Tennis and U Mumba TT. The league will be held in Pune from July 13 to 30.

India looks to take home form into European leg

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Press Trust of India
LONDON

A rejuvenated Indian men's hockey team will look to carry on its fine form from the home leg and maintain its supremacy at the top of the standings when it begins the Europe sojourn of the FIH Pro League against Olympic champion Belgium here on Friday.

During the European leg, India will also take on the Netherlands and Argentina in Eindhoven.

On top

India overcame a disappointing World Cup campaign earlier this year to climb to the top of the 2022-23 Pro League table with an unbeaten record against World champion Germany and mighty Australia.

The Indians secured three outright wins from the Rourkela leg, while also winning a shootout bonus point in the fourth match against the Kookaburras. India leads the table with 19 points from five outright wins and two from shoot-outs.

The Harmanpreet Singh-led side will look to carry the winning momentum when it takes on Belgium on Friday and Great Britain on Saturday at the Lee Valley Stadium here.

Raring to go: Skipper Harmanpreet says the team is pumped up to do well against Belgium. PTI

India registers a comfortable 3-1 win over Japan

JR. ASIA CUP HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
SALALAH (OMAN)

The Indian men's team clinched a comfortable 3-1 win over Japan in its second Pool-A game of the Junior Asia Cup hockey at Salalah (Oman) on Thursday.

Araijeet Singh Hundal (36th), Sharda Nand Tiwari (39th) and Uttam Singh (56th) scored a goal apiece for India while Kumpei Yasuda (19th) found the back of the net for Japan.

This was India's second win in as many games. India will play Pakistan on Saturday before taking on Thailand in its last pool game on Sunday.

The result: India 3 (Araijeet Singh Hundal 36, Sharda Nand Tiwari 39, Uttam Singh 56) bt Japan 1 (Kumpei Yasuda 19).